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[JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT.]

REVIEWS

RUSSIAN NORTH POLAR EXPEDITIONS.

The history of geographical discoveries affords a remarkable illustration of the sure though gradual process by which the growth of arts and civilization enlarges even the physical capabilities of man. In the most cultivated age of Rome, the equatorial regions of the earth were commonly believed to be uninhabitable. Of the polar regions there was at that time nothing known. The northern seas were described in obscure language, as partially congealed, and yielding sluggishly to the prows of ships. But at the present day the entire globe is open to our researches, and the more forbidding and inaccessible portions of it are beset, as the thirst of knowledge increases, by the curiosity of man, with unwearied perseverance. We, who were thought, at the court of Augustus, to be the inhabitants of the remotest north, and whom the Roman poet was pleased to designate—

—penitus tuo divos orbis Britannos,

—we not merely frequent, but even rule a considerable portion of the torrid zone. The extremities of cold are as little capable of checking the enterprising spirit of the present age as those of heat. One English traveller of our own days (the late Captain Lyon) visited extreme climates, differing from each other in ordinary temperature, during the seasons of his sojourn in them, not less than one hundred degrees! The conclusive experiment, as to the capability of the human frame to brave the rigours of a polar winter, was made by Captain Parry, and the completeness of his triumph over the dangers and discomforts of the extreme of cold, will tend, it may be hoped, to enhance the value of science and of forethought in every zone.

The most valuable testimony to the merits of our northern navigators is that offered by northern nations, who are well acquainted with the nature and difficulty of what has been achieved. Endurance, which appears almost miraculous to the inhabitant of the temperate zone, will not so easily awaken the admiration of one who dwells in the vicinity of perpetual ice. Expeditions which in this country are thought to call for a display of surprising hardihood, are contemplated without wonder by the fur-traders of Hudson's Bay. The Russians, habituated to severe cold, ramble over the frozen shores of Siberia with an ease which might perhaps be studied with advantage even by our own hardy voyagers; but the enterprises of an imperfectly civilized people rarely assume shapes which can figure in the page of history, and without the enlightenment of the Russian government, little information would accrue to mankind from the bold and active habits of the Russian people. In perusing the following account of the recent attempts made by the Russians to survey the coasts of Novaia Semlia (new-land) which we have compiled chiefly from the memoirs on that subject by M. Baer, our reader must bear in mind, that the idea of completely and scientifically exploring those hyperborean shores is quite recent, and that it has been suggested in a great measure by the example of our northern voyagers.

The first attempt made to explore the northern

shores of the old world, and to discover the north-east passage to Cathay, was that of the unfortunate Sir Hugh Willoughby in 1553, who, being closed in by the ice, and forced to winter in a bay on the coast of Lapland, was frozen to death with all his crew. Richard Chancellor, however, who accompanied this expedition, succeeded in reaching Archangel, and opening a lucrative commerce with the Russians. On a second voyage he took with him Stephen Burrough, who proceeded as far as the straits of Waigatz, and saw at least a part of the southern and western shores of Novaia Semlia, or, as the name is corruptly written, Nova Zembla. In 1596 the crew of a Dutch vessel wrecked on the northern coast of that island was obliged to winter there. In the following summer they put to sea in their boat and happily fell in with their countrymen on the coast of Finland; their pilot, however, William Barentz, died of cold and fatigue on the voyage. In the following century some of the Dutch navigators, whom the whale fishery and the hope of finding a near passage to the East Indies, kept constantly on the alert in the northern seas, are said to have advanced a hundred leagues eastward of Novaia Semlia; but from the first discovery of that island till the year 1833, not one of the many navigators who visited the northern seas were ever able to approach, or even to get a sight of its eastern coasts, with the exception of Rosmyssloff, who, about the year 1762, advanced a little way beyond the Matochkin-shar, as the strait is called which divides the length of Novaia Semlia into two nearly equal parts, and of the walrus-fisher, Loshkin, to whom tradition attributes the discovery of the entire eastern coast, but the date of whose successful exploration was till lately unknown.

During the years 1819—24, five well appointed expeditions were successively despatched by the Russian government for the survey of Novaia Semlia, four of which were under the command of the experienced navigator Lütke; yet they all failed in the especial object of their mission, namely, to trace the eastern coasts of that country. The attempt, so often frustrated, was naturally abandoned, and the survey of Novaia Semlia would probably have never been again thought of, had not the activity of private enterprise stepped in at a lucky conjuncture to renew it.

A merchant of Archangel named Brandt, who was equally alive to the interests of science and of commerce, formed in 1832 the double plan of restoring the ancient trade along the northern coast from the White Sea to the Gulf of Oby, and of surveying the eastern shores of Novaia Semlia, in the hopes of being afterwards able to establish on them a lucrative walrus fishery. He formed a company, which obtained an exclusive licence to carry on the contemplated trade and fishery, and procured experienced officers of the navy to conduct their expeditions.

One ship, commanded by Lieut. Krotoff, was to sail along the west coast of Novaia Semlia as far as the Matochkin-shar, and then, passing through that strait, if possible to direct its course to the mouth of the Oby or the Yenisei. The second vessel, under the command of the pilot Pachtussoff, was to proceed through the straits of Cara to the survey of the eastern coast of Novaia Semlia. The third vessel was destined

to visit the western coasts of the same land in search of the walrus, and had complete success, returning home in due time richly laden. Krotoff and Pachtussoff were separated in a fog soon after starting, and of the former nothing was ever heard of more, but the fragments of a large wreck found near the Matochkin-shar, and recognized as belonging to his vessel, leave little doubt as to the melancholy fate of himself and his crew.

Pachtussoff was more fortunate: he left Archangel on the 1st of August, and running eastwards along the southern shores of Novaia Semlia, he fell in, on the last day of the same month, with compact fields of ice, which obliged him to run into Kamenka or Rocky Bay. As the ice seemed fixed, he commenced the construction of his winter residence, so as to await in the vicinity of the eastern coast the breaking up of the ice in the following summer. A hut was built of drift-wood, 12 feet long and 10 wide, the roof being 7 feet high in the centre and 5½ at the sides. Close to the hut, and joined to it by a passage covered with sail cloth, was a boiler for steam baths. All the preparations were soon completed to spend the winter comfortably, according to the Russian mode, in this little dwelling. But Pachtussoff lamented his haste when he saw (and saw not without surprise) the straits of Cara frequently quite free from ice in the months of September, October, and even November; but nevertheless, whether from the time which it would have taken to equip the ship for sea, or from his fear of mischances on the eastern coast at so advanced a season, he did not think it advisable to quit his snug quarters in Rocky Bay.

The winter passed over with the same round of employments and adventures which are related by Barentz and Heemskirk. Wood was collected on the shore and brought sometimes from a distance of six miles; ice-foxes were taken in snares; fearful snow-storms were endured; and battles were fought with great polar bears. The hut was kept sufficiently warm, so that the grass seeds contained in the moss, crammed between the planks, germinated and threw out shoots six or eight inches long. The first symptoms of scurvy among the people appeared in March.

In April Pachtussoff, anxious to give his men active employment, commenced the survey of the group of islands near Rocky Bay, and went on extending his labours still further westward; the whole work being performed on the ice. While he was thus engaged, on the 24th of April so dreadful a snow-storm came on, that the men, unable any longer to hold themselves erect, lay down to let themselves be covered by the snow. Although they had buried some provisions not far from the place where this took place, yet while the storm lasted it was impossible to fetch them, and for three days they lay buried in the snow without tasting food. This snow-storm deserves to be noted by meteorologists, not so much on account of its violence as of the vast extent of country simultaneously visited by it, since we are assured by Von Helmersen, who was at that time travelling in the Uralian Mountains, that it was felt throughout the entire length of that range to a distance of 1600 miles from the shores of Novaia Semlia.

On the 24th of June there was a clear sea in the straits of Cara and the adjoining parts of

* Last week's paper was, by mistake, numbered 535 instead of 534. To prevent confusion hereafter, the correction had better be made at once.

the east coast were free from ice; Pachtussoff proceeded therefore in the boat (for the ship was still frozen in) to survey the eastern coast, which he gained after turning a point of land named by him Cape Menchikoff, from the Russian Minister of the Navy. On the 4th of July he came to the mouth of a little river, in lat. $71^{\circ} 30' N.$, where he found the remains of a fallen cross on which could be clearly deciphered the date 7250, and the beginning of an inscription "Ssawa Fofanoff." As Loskkin, to whom tradition ascribes the exploration of the entire eastern coast of Novaia Semlia, was surmised Ssawa, there can be little doubt that the cross was erected by him; and hence we obtain the exact date of his voyage, which was previously unknown, the year 7250 of the Greek calendar coinciding with the year 1742 of the christian era. The river where the cross was found is now named the Ssawina.

Pachtussoff having returned with the boat, and the ship being at length got free from the ice, the whole party embarked on the 11th of July and left Rocky Bay, after having occupied a winter's hut there for 297 days. On an island near Cape Menchikoff were found some human bones, which, though gnawed by wild beasts, were easily discovered to be the remains of the skeletons of a woman and two children. These were supposed to have been the family of a Samoyed who crossed over to Novaia Semlia in 1822, and had never been heard of after; as no traces of the man's bones were found, it was conjectured that he had perished while hunting, and that in consequence his wife and children died of hunger. The voyage up the eastern coast was now prosecuted without any accident. Eighteen days were consumed in a deep inlet called Lütte's Bay. Icebergs were met with grounded in eleven fathoms. On the 13th of August, Pachtussoff entered the Matochkin-shar, having surveyed one-half of the eastern coast. In that strait, as well as in several inlets examined during his voyage, he found vast numbers of porpoises and seals of various species. Having passed through the Matochkin-shar, he was assailed at the western mouth of it by a furious tempest which obliged him to run for shelter to the Russian shores; he gained the mouth of the Pechora, but the gale continuing unabated, the ship drifted ashore on the 31st of September. The hut in which the shipwrecked men took shelter was soon after washed away by an unusually high sea, and they had to wade a considerable distance before they were beyond the reach of the angry element.

In the following year (1834), the Russian government, determined to follow up these discoveries, fitted out two vessels—a transport ship and a small schooner—and appointed to the command of them, Ziwlka, a pilot, or master in the navy, and Pachtussoff, who was to be the chief of the expedition. They were instructed to winter in the Matochkin-shar, and to proceed in the following summer to survey the eastern coast northward from that strait. The vessels sailed from Archangel on the 24th of July, and after being separated by fogs, and pursuing different courses, along the shores of Novaia Semlia, they met together at the western entrance of the Matochkin-shar on the 27th of August. A strong easterly wind however compelled them to anchor in the strait, and when on the 9th of September, the gale having abated, they advanced a little way, they found the strait thickly covered with floes of ice driven into it by the wind. Packs of wolves kept up a continual howling along the shores. By constant labour and exertion a passage was effected through the ice, and on the 14th the vessels reached the eastern entrance of the strait, which was firmly blocked up by ice, nor could any clear sea be

discerned from the mast-head. The floe ice in the strait drifting backwards, when the thermometer was only 5 degrees above zero, was soon frozen into a solid mass. It was absolutely necessary, however, to extricate the vessels; a passage therefore was sawed through the ice with great labour, and a sheltered situation being reached at the western end of the strait, preparations were made for the winter residence. A hut was constructed, 25 feet in length, 21 feet wide, and 8 feet high in the middle of the roof. This edifice, of dimensions unusually grand in Novaia Semlia, was divided into two compartments,—one for the crews, the other for the officers. The ships were deserted, and the winter quarters occupied on the 8th of October.

In the new abode the cold was never painfully felt. Much inconvenience arose, however, from the humidity of the drift timber and of the moss used in building the hut. The smoke also proved disagreeable, as there was no draught of air, and no chimney but a round hole in the roof. The hut was at times so completely buried in snow, that for eight days together it was impossible to quit it. The only egress on such occasions was through the hole in the roof. In the course of the winter eleven white bears were killed near the hut; one on the roof, and one actually in the hut itself. To give the men active occupation was Pachtussoff's chief care; he employed them accordingly in gathering drift-wood, and carrying it home, a distance of seven miles. Water also was brought to the hut from a lake about three or four miles off. These employments were persevered in when the mercury was at 35° below zero (Fahr.), nor was this extreme cold found distressing, as a profound calm uniformly ensued when the thermometer fell as low as -25° . The leisure hours of the men were spent in setting traps for foxes, or shooting at a mark. But notwithstanding the salutary influence of exercise and amusement, the scurvy showed itself among the men in March, when one of their number died. About the same time, also, the survey of the Matochkin-shar was begun, as well as the construction of two sledges, with other preparations for an expedition towards the east.

When the sledges were completed, Pachtussoff and Ziwlka proceeded to the eastern extremity of the Matochkin-shar, where they found one of the huts constructed seventy years before, by Rosmyssloff, still in tolerably good condition. Pachtussoff soon after returned to complete the survey of the strait, while Ziwlka, with one of the sledges and five men, proceeded up the east coast. He took with him provisions for a month, and a small tent for his people to sleep in at night. The men were clad in the Samoyed fashion, with double suits of reindeer skin, the hair being turned inward in the under garments; and were thus able to resist the cold, though often exposed to heavy falls of snow. Their boots sometimes contracted moisture, and then froze so hard, that it was impossible either to walk in them or to draw them off. On one occasion, the men, having no drift wood, were obliged to burn the poles of their tent to make a good fire to thaw their boots. In spite of these difficulties, Ziwlka succeeded in surveying 100 miles of coast as far as Cape Flottoff (twice as far as Rosmyssloff had penetrated), and found it everywhere low; it differed however from the coast south of the Matochkin-shar, in being much intersected by deep inlets or gulfs, some of which he was unable to examine far enough to determine whether they were straits, or terminated in the land. The farther he went north, the more the deep indentations of the coast, and the number of islands, increased. Warned of the necessity of returning, by the diminution of his provisions, he regained his

winter quarters on the 6th of May, after an absence of thirty-four days. During his journey homeward a north-west wind prevailed, and in a great measure cleared the east coast of ice. Many traces of reindeer were seen, but not the animals themselves.

In the meantime Pachtussoff was busily employed in building a boat, 18 feet long, with which he intended to explore the northern coast of Novaia Semlia, proceeding northward along the west coast, and then returning by the east. Birds began to make their appearance in May, and by the end of June the men had accumulated, with eggs and fowls together, an ample store of fresh provisions. On the 30th of June the expedition sailed northwards up the western coast. On the 8th of July the first ice was seen, near the promontory incorrectly named, in the map, the Admiralty Isles. On the following day the ship still held her course through broken ice, when on a sudden two great ice fields closed on her, and she immediately went to pieces. The men had barely time to save themselves with a few of their instruments, a bag of flour, some butter, and the small boats, which they fortunately succeeded in dragging up on the ice. They now with great labour made their way over the broken ice, dragging after them the boats, with which they crossed from one ice field to another, till they at length reached an island, (in lat. $75^{\circ} 45' N.$), where they found some drift wood; but their scanty stock of provisions, and the smallness of their boats, which were unfit for the open sea, left them but little hope. Pachtussoff, however, did not give way to languid despair; he commenced surveying the adjoining coasts, and in this manner diverted the minds of his companions from the contemplation of the miseries which seemed to await them; till at length, after thirteen days of labour, privation, and anxiety, a walrus-fisher approached the coast, and rescued them from their perilous situation. On the 10th of August they again arrived at their winter quarters in the Matochkin-shar, where the sick men who had remained in the schooner were by this time perfectly restored. Pachtussoff's activity of spirit was no degree subdued by the hardships he had undergone. He sailed on the 14th for the east coast, but met with compact ice at Pachtussoff's Islands, (lat. $74^{\circ} 25' N.$), and was thus hindered from advancing much farther than Ziwlka had done in the spring expedition. On the 8th of September Pachtussoff set sail for Archangel, where he fell sick on his arrival, and died in a few weeks.

It is not unlikely that the shores of Novaia Semlia have been often examined in detail by the indefatigable walrus-fishers, but from want of scientific acquirement, their information is of an evanescent kind. One of these, named Bashmekoff, is said to have surveyed of late years, with tolerable precision, a large portion of the west coast. In the course of his explorations he made a discovery of some importance. He entered the great inlet, named in the map Cross Bay, (in lat. $74^{\circ} 7' N.$) and found it full of islands. Having advanced in it eight or nine leagues, he perceived that it divided into three great arms, to which he could see no terminations. Now, Ziwlka found on the east coast three great inlets, corresponding in situation with the direction of those arms. There is good reason therefore to believe that there is, in this place, a strait divided on the east side into several branches. Further north also (in $75^{\circ} 30'$) towards the Berch Islands, a similar inlet was explored a considerable distance, by the walrus-fisher Gvodsareff. In the summer of 1834, another of the same class of hardy seamen, named Issakoff, sailed round the north-east extremity of Novaia Semlia, and saw no sign of ice. To the

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eastward, as he sailed south, were two large islands, at a moderate distance from the main. Intimidated by the bad character of the east coast, where the sea, from being quite open, open, becomes icebound in a few hours, he did not pursue his discoveries far, but, having satisfied his curiosity, retraced his course.

The two expeditions conducted by Pachtussoff produced a mass of meteorological observations of a very valuable kind, and which bear unequivocal testimony to the carefulness and assiduity of that officer. Neither our plan nor our limits, however, will permit us to enter into a critical discussion of those observations, which belong to a class susceptible of a wide extent of variation in the scale of accuracy; but we cannot pass them over without pointing out some of their most manifest and most weighty results. Pachtussoff's observations consist of two series, each extending through more than a year (1832-3, and 1834-5), and in which the variations of the barometer and thermometer, the strength and direction of the winds, &c., are noted every two hours.† From the first series, made when his winter quarters were in Rocky Bay, we learn that the mean temperature of the south-eastern point of Novaia Semlia is 15° Fahrenheit. The second series gives us, for the mean temperature of the western coast, further north, or of the winter quarters in the Matochkin-shar, 16°.9. Thus we find that there is an improvement in the climate, or, strictly speaking, an increase in the mean temperature, amounting to 1°.9 Fahr. in advancing northwards about two degrees and a half, or 150 geographical miles. This fact, though at first sight it may appear anomalous, is nevertheless in strict accordance with the laws which regulate the distribution of terrestrial heat. Rocky Bay is in the vicinity of large masses of land, and of the ice which the winds continually press down on the eastern coast of Novaia Semlia, while the west coast further north is exposed to a sea open for several months in the year. The increase of mean temperature, however, cannot be supposed to go on without limits as we advance northwards; it will be probably a near approximation to the truth to assume, that along both coasts the mean temperature is nearly constant; the increased distance from the continent in the more northern parts, counterbalancing the diminution of solar influence. The mean temperature of the whole island is about 16°, which is also 16 degrees below the freezing point.

The greatest cold experienced in Novaia Semlia was in February, when the thermometer fell to -40°. It often remained for days together at -34°. A solitary observation, indeed, once noted it much lower: and so remarkable a depression having attracted attention, the circumstances accompanying it were noted also. They cannot fail to surprise our readers. The men, it appears, were taking a warm bath, and then rushing out, according to the Russian fashion, to roll themselves in the snow. While this was going on, the officers had the curiosity to look at the exposed thermometer, and found it to be at -54°. Thus it would appear that the men were rolling themselves in the snow when the temperature of the air was 86 degrees below the freezing point! This phenomenon of a sudden and violent depression, does not, under its circumstances, appear to us wholly unaccountable; but while we do not feel disposed, with M. Baer, to question the exactness of the observation, we believe that the cold observed was confined within extremely narrow local limits. The steam of the bath, in fact, caused an oscillation of

temperature, of which the lowest extreme was observed.

There are many inhabited places on the earth's surface which have a lower mean temperature than Novaia Semlia, and where the cold of winter far exceeds that of this island. But there are few spots known where the summer temperature is so inadequate to the support of organic life. Nature, slumbering during the winter season, is capable of regaining all her strength and lustre during a very short summer, if it have but sufficient warmth. Novaia Semlia would therefore be better fitted for the habitation of man, if its temperature throughout the year were less equal. The greatest heat felt there was in August, when the thermometer once rose to 56°. But the mean temperature of summer was only 36°, or the temperature of the Shetland Isles in December.

It appears from Pachtussoff's surveys, that Novaia Semlia is much narrower than was supposed, hardly exceeding 60 miles in breadth throughout its whole length; neither does it stretch so far to the east as it is represented in old maps. The east coast is low as far as it has been examined. On the western side, mountains of considerable height commence immediately north of the Matochkin-shar, and create a division of climates; there being clear dry weather on the one coast, as often as there is fog and moisture on the other. The deep inlets discovered by Bashmekoff and Gvodsareff, if they should turn out to be straits, may prove to be of some importance, by increasing the means of access to the eastern coast, and facilitating the examination of it in detail. M. Baer proposes that expeditions should be sent out by the Russian government to winter in those inlets, and then to proceed early in the spring to the survey of the eastern coast. The motive to which he addresses his arguments in favour of these expeditions, is national emulation. The English flag alone (he says) has waved on the northern coasts of America—the Russian on those of Siberia. Both nations may hope to win by their hardihood and perseverance the admiration of posterity. Even now (he exclaims), the nations of Europe anxiously watch who shall first survey the northern coast of America, between the limits of Franklin's and Beechey's discoveries. We believe their anxious curiosity will be fully satisfied by the end of this year.

Had not M. Baer preferred, in addressing the Imperial Academy of Sciences, to insist on the argument of fame rather than on that of interest, he might have made a much stronger case, and turned the parallel much more to his advantage. The seas north of the old world are contiguous, and in a great degree belonging to the Russian dominion. The Russians, who carry on extensive fisheries in them, have a near interest in exploring them, since the maxim that knowledge is power is especially applicable to navigation. Novaia Semlia may be surveyed at a very moderate expense, and fishers or hunters having some acquaintance with it may easily be found on the shores of the White Sea. There is on record, one hunter, named Rachmanin, who spent five and twenty winters in Novaia Semlia, two in Spitzbergen, and afterwards passed five winters on the Siberian coast, while journeying to the mouth of the Yenisei. The English, on the other hand, less fitted by habits for such expeditions, conquer difficulties by their superior knowledge, and by large expenditure of money. They are stimulated to undertake northern discoveries only by curiosity, and devote themselves to that one object with a partiality almost exclusive, while they are careless of the near interest they have in extending their knowledge of the inhabited quarters of the globe.

Captain Wood, who was shipwrecked on

Novaia Semlia in 1676, in attempting to discover the north-east passage, says roundly, that he thinks it will never be in the power of man to discover whether that country be an island or not. He was an able seaman, as were all those, both Dutch and English, who were foiled in the same enterprise: and if the circumnavigation of Novaia Semlia be effected in our days, and even appear to grow easy,—as will be probably the case,—it will be one of many proofs how the dominion of man increases with his knowledge. M. Baer intimates, in his memoir, that the Russian government was disposed to send expeditions to winter in Novaia Semlia, in 1838 and 1839. We know not whether that design has been abandoned, but we can inform our readers that the Imperial Academy of Sciences has sent some of its members, among whom is M. Baer himself, to examine the natural history of that island. The expedition left Archangel in June last, and was expected to return in October. M. Baer was shown, at Archangel, among other specimens of the produce of Novaia Semlia, a quantity of yellow pyrites, which was thought by the importers to be gold dust. This anecdote carries us back to the days of Frobisher. He also saw samples of a mineral of inestimable value in such a country—namely, good stone coal.

Attila, King of the Huns. By the Hon. and Rev. W. Herbert. 8vo. Bohn.

HERE, in the year of grace 1838, is an Epic poem! and here is the *Edinburgh Review*, mistaking, as of old, the shadow for the substance, the symbol for the thing signified; rejoicing over this revival of the forms of classic poetry, as if it were a justification for all its early sins against the imaginative. But there are other, and more interesting subjects, touched on by the critic: "There is a persuasion," he observes, "that the age of Epics (!) is past"—"The Epic is, we are told, the production of earlier and less critical periods of a nation's history." Now for reasons not, perhaps, obvious on a casual perusal, we cannot but believe that the writer had in his mind's eye certain opinions advanced in our review of 'Ion' and 'La Valliere,' although he is here pleased to consider the subject in reference to Epic, and not to Dramatic poetry. What we did say then on the general question was this—"In the perpetual advance of any people from rudeness to refinement, each phase of its civilization is fitted to the opening and working out of a certain intellectual vein—that is, to the production of a certain literature. Thus, we conceive, heroic ballad, chronicle, drama, epic poem, oratory, history, &c., have each their appropriate era of production in the life of a nation. We do not mean to mathematize our system, and, having cut the national life into squares, deny the possibility of a work being well written out of its proper cheque."† Of course, the argument of the critic goes to disprove this: let us hear him:—"In every case, the appearance of a great Epic has been coincident with the period of the highest developement of genius, and with the most masculine state of taste in the nation by which it has been produced. • • There are no Epics produced in the evil days of a nation's history." He then asks—"Under what circumstances did our great Epic make its appearance? On the outskirts of that great era which had listened to the majestic periods of Raleigh and of Hooker," &c. &c., a period "uniting the chivalrous recollections of the Elizabethan age with the enthusiasm of principle and intensity of self-will which characterises that of the Parliament;" and in that great work "we recognise the inspiring and majestic character of that period." And this is thought to disprove our argument!!

† Atheneum, No. 448.

† Baer, throughout his Memoir on the Latest Discoveries, &c., inadvertently refers the second expedition of Pachtussoff to the years 1833-4, instead of 1834-5. His dates in that memoir are according to the old style.

However, there can be no question of the critic's sincerity, after reading the following paragraph :

" No man of genius, united with discernment, who had to select a subject for poetry, would be likely, we think, at the present day, to choose for his theme ' those songs to savage virtue dear,'—with their wild passions, and corresponding eccentricity of character and movement—round which Sir Walter Scott shed so brilliant a lustre ; ... nor those pictures of moody, distempered, and selfish passion which, in the powerful verse of Byron, seemed to lose their essentially coarse and melodramatic character. . . . Nor, on the other hand, does the high and palmy state of the stage at this moment, nor the success of most modern dramatic attempts, hold out greater inducement to the poet to devote himself to that species of composition. . . . Abandoning the one class of compositions as exhausted, and repelled by the dangers attendant on the other, the poet of modern times who aspires after anything great, is in a manner impelled towards that species of composition—once recognised as the highest, and which now, by its very antiquity, has again acquired an air of novelty ;—and thus, on the whole, we have a strong persuasion that, with the increasing tendency towards the intellectual in poetry, in preference to the merely passionate, it would be, in the department of the epic, that a great poet would, at this moment, find the best opening ; and that when such a poet shall be found to devote himself to the task, and worthily (!) to fulfil the high conditions which it imposes, he may rely on finding ' fit audience,' and that ' not few.' "

It is not our intention to enter into any controversy on this subject, or to point out the manifest contradictions, as they appear to us, of the critic's argument ; but let us strip his meaning, in this last sentence, of its pomp of words, and reduce it to Paternoster Row criticism. Let us suppose that some one of our many "men of genius," casting about for a subject likely to tickle the dull cold ear of the public, were to submit this criticism of the *Edinburgh* to the consideration of one of our publishing Mæcenases : might not the worthy Bibliopole answer somewhat after this fashion ?—

DEAR SIR.—The Edinburgh Reviewer is quite right—all ages and all subjects, as I know by experience, are alike to a man of genius “united with discernment ;” and certainly “Songs to savage natures dear,” “moody pictures of moody distempered selfish passion”—that is to say, poems like Scott's and Byrons, are quite *passe*, and “the success of modern dramatic attempts hold out no encouragement.” What he means by “*the age of Epic*” I do not know ; but, as we say “the season for oranges”—meaning that time when they are hawked about Change, and thrust into stage-coaches eighteen for a shilling, he must, I presume, allude to some period, though certainly before I was in business, when Epics were the fashionable literature of the day. If so, I agree with him,—that there is “a good opening” in that line—that they might now have an air of novelty—and that we might hope for “fit audience,” and “not few,” which I take to mean a good remunerating sale—indeed, I should be willing to hazard the experiment, and treat for the copyright, conditionally that it be ready for press early in March ; otherwise the “age for Epics” may be gone, like the age for “songs to savage natures dear,” which were, at one time, bought and read by every lady and lady's maid in the kingdom, though they will not now return mere paper and print.

I am, &c.

But we must come to the Epic before us ; and differing, as we do, from the critic in the *Edinburgh*, and believing, as we do, that we could count up on our fingers all the Epics that all ages have produced, which the world would not willingly let die or be forgotten, we cannot but think that Mr. Herbert is a bold man—doubly bold to fix on such a subject as Attila, whose character has been misunderstood, or at best inadequately appreciated by all modern historians—not even excepting Gibbon. Where history has failed in delineating that character, poetry is not likely to be more successful. But we beg Mr. Herbert's pardon ; he is an historian, no less than a poet. Full half of the volume before us—and, strange to say, the latter half—is what he calls “An Historical Treatise” on “Attila and his Predecessors.” This is making things sure : if prose and poetry, if history and imagination, do not succeed in drawing an accurate portrait, how can one be ever expected ?

To reverse the order adopted by Mr. Herbert, we shall first observe that the “Historical Treatise” on “Attila and his Predecessors” contains little that is novel in regard to facts, and little that is striking in regard to reflection. Tolerably accurate it undoubtedly is, but it is somewhat tame ; and contains much that is irrelevant to the subject : assuredly it will never be read after the splendid narrative of Gibbon. Though it abounds in detail, it affords few illustrations of the great king's character, other than may be found in many popular works. Yet illustrations might have been discovered, and advantageously thrown into the form of notes on the corresponding passages of the poem. Were the Historical Treatise as animated as it is lifeless, it would scarcely be tolerable in such a form and such a place.

And now for the Epic, which opens as most Epics have done, from the *Iliad* to *Madoc* :

Him terrible I sing, the scourge of heaven,
Who, braving the Messiah, with thy sword,
Dread Ariman, outpour'd his Scythian flood,
What time the empire of Quirinus old
Quaked from the base.

By the way, who is this Ariman ? Hear the historian and poet : “Ares, or Areimanios, in Latin Mars, the war-god.” This is certainly one way of settling the identity. In the same manner our author proves that Attila and Arthur are one and the same ; that Odin is no other than the Scourge of God ; that the Hunnish monarch, the British chieftain, the Scandinavian priest, are verily identical. After the same fashion, we should have no difficulty in proving that Zoroaster was Moses ; that Odin was Hercules ; that Mohammed was Manes. Assuredly, none of these personages differ more from each other than the ancient deity of Persia, or rather the eastern personification of the Evil Principle, from the war-god of the Greeks.

The poem opens with the check which Attila received on the plains of Chalons, from the combined Franks, Romans, and Goths. But he is not discouraged ; he displays the miraculous sword which the god of war had made, and dropped on the sands of Scythia, and the whole army worship it :

By Tanais oft, or Rha's majestic flood,
To that grim idol rose the solemn chant
Of nighty adoration, while the clang
Of arm'd legions in their bloody rites
Rang e'en to Caucasus.

It would, we suspect, be difficult for any *historian* to prove that the Huns ever worshipped a sword at all ; or that they ever chanted when they worshipped ; or that they worshipped by night. But waiving these objections, what but a supernatural sword would be fit for such a being as Attila, who was not by woman born, or by woman nursed ? He was nursed “in charm'd Engaddi,” by beings unknown ; his kindred and the kindred of his race, by spirits who govern the destinies of this lower world. And that nothing might be wanting to such a warrior, he had a steed to correspond :

Impetuous Grana ; if tame tells aright,
Of other breed than spurn with foot untamed
Dneiper's luxuriant gibe ; where'er he trod,
The blasted earth with sulphurous vapour reek'd ;
Nor flower, nor herbage clothed the barren print
Of that fell hoof.

If such a one, with his demon education, his demon sword, and demon horse, was not lofty enough for an Epic, we know not where a suitable subject could have been found.

While Attila was gazing at the retiring enemy, there appeared “a beauteous doe,”—not Mr. Wordsworth's *White Doe of Rylstone*, for though it was

White as the snowy wreaths on Maenarus,
Untrodden by the hunter,

it had not the loveliness, the innocence, the harmlessness of the other creation. No ; it too was a demon :

Stern Attila regarded it, as nigh
It stopy'd, and fearless on the Hunnish king

Turn'd its full orbs, as if for him alone
Its eyes had vision. An unconscious flush
Glow'd on his tawny skin. His sight seem'd fix'd,
Yet were his thoughts far off, beside the flood
Of Cuban, and that demon-guarded marsh,
Where dwelt his rude forefathers.*

That is, where the demons his ancestors dwelt.
What was the cause of its appearance ? The king resolved to follow the deer, and learn the secrets of fate. Away went the demon deer—away dashed the demon rider, on his demon horse :

He upright
Rear'd furious, shaking from his lip the foam,
And started on his gallop ; the torn sod
Flies shivered into air, and sparks and flame
Play round his heel. Beneath his stroke the plain,
Echoing each footstep, quakes ; till, far and faint,
The thunder of his course in distance dies.

Leagues fled behind them ; Attila still kept

The chase in view, where wide behind his camp
Stretch'd dreary Arduenna. By a rock

Stupendous, that o'erbrow'd the pathless brake

In that unmeasured solitude, the deer

Vanish'd, ingulph'd in shade. The baffled Hun

Uncertain paused ; the while his fiery horse

Un governable paw'd the desert turf,

Neighing, and snuff'd the air, and chafed, as if

Voice man knew not, sights unseen and strange,

To him were manifest. Anon from far

The thunderous gallop of ten thousand hoofs

And other neighings answered, till the rush

Of countless legions, heard, but undescried,

Came sweeping by. The cheery morning air

Turn'd loathsome, like a blast from charnel vaults,

And darkness grew around, as if the sun,

Short of resplendent shafts, had veil'd his brow

In rayless night. With foaming jaws, eyes fix'd,

Neck stiffen'd and outstretch'd, like moulded brass

That yields not to the bit, the Hunnish steed,

Straining each sinew, over rock and scree.

Tears headlong, to oustrip that viewless herd,

Now hears his rider's voice, nor feels the rein,

As if incensed by rivalry of forms.

That nature own'd not ; now behind them, now

Amidst the desolating multitude involved,

Now striving with the first, while strong and loud

The labouring flanks of that unearthly crew,

Panted behind. At length dead halt he made,

As who had won the goal. How far, how long,

And whither borne by that ungovern'd course,

The monarch knew not ; all his senses reel'd

In dizziness amazed.

Here is a chase royal, such as no one has seen since the days of old Nimrod, who, by the way, our poet assures us was no other than Ariman, who, as we observed before, was no other than Odin, who was no other than Attila, who was no other than King Arthur. But then he seems to hesitate whether he shall call them contemporaneous, or adopt the Pythagorean doctrine of transmigration.

Attila soon finds himself where a

Crystal flood

Slept in a stately harbour, fringed with flowers

Innumerable, from which the wanton air

Drew mingled odours, richer than the breeze

From blest Aralia, or that fragrant pyre

On which the phoenix dies. Harmonious notes

Came floating on the water, with a fall

So ravishing, it seem'd the ecstatic close

Of some seraphic chorus ! and anon

Their warblings kindled into amorous plaints,

Voluptuous strains of rapture-breathing hope

From strings invisible, and airy harps,

Which might have stirr'd with their bright minstrelsy

A heart of adamant. Around, the earth

Smiled gaily, carpeted with bloom : nor lack'd

Amid that witchery of sound and sight,

Loveliest than all, fair shapes and feminine,

Fairer than woman-kind, unzoned, and ripe

With every faultless charm. The highest seat

Heid one, amid that train surpassing bright ;

Their queen, if daedon adorning locks

That need no gems to grace them, princely port,

And stature raised above her comrades, speak

Royal pre-eminence, o'er forms that seem

Each perfect. *

* * * * *

O'er all her person glow'd

Irreparable charms and stately grace.

Near her sat one, past manhood's burning prime,

Who seem'd her father. Years had left some trace

Of cares upon his brow, but unadorned

With vigour and the venerable print

Of inborn worth.

The queen welcomes him, and offers

The ambrosial cup, untasted yet by man ; but, like the Lady in Comus, he will none of their “brew'd enchantment ;” he scorns all effe-

“ His eyes

* Were with his heart, and that was far away ;

He reck'd not of the life he lost, nor prize,

But where his rude hut by the Danube lay,

There were his young barbarians all at play,

There was their Dacian mother.—BYRON.

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minate pleasures, as fit only for women and boys,
and solicits her to

— lift the veil
That hangs o'er time and fate!

The queen consents; but one, who is evidently superior to her, tells him that he has asked what she dare not, and cannot give,

— ere the irrevocable oath

Have passed thy lips, and thou hast quaff'd that draught,
Powerful to steel the nerves against all ill!

Present or future. Dare, and be supreme!

This said, the cup he proffer'd, rich with gold;
And, at his grasp, the liquor hiss'd with.
High frothing o'er the brink. A fearful sigh,
From nature's deepest depths, shook every leaf
At that dire bidding. Nought appal'd, the Hun
Upraised his ponderous falchion, gift of Hell,
And by that damned brand, meet instrument
For such dread purpose, swore the eternal curse
Against Heaven's holiest; then drain'd the cup,
With its thick dregs of bitterness. Earth heard,
And shudd'rd from her innmost; darkness stole
Over her face, as tempest mountain-born
Throws slowly the deep shade o'er vale and lake
On which the red light glares, while far aloof
Each alpine summit like a furnace glows
Through the storm's night.

Unlike Milton's "cordial juleps," this has its influence not on him who drinks, but on others, and in a moment the assembled beauties are "quite transformed,"—"the fair divinity" into a hideous monster, no other than Sin;

— her sisters, as herself, impure.

With bloated visage, brutish in their mein;
the noble-looking man into Satan, and the pleasing vision is succeeded by an awful one. Attila now

— stood, or deem'd he stood, above the range
Of earth's horizon; and with marvel scann'd
The infinite creation. Distance seem'd
Annihilate, and each minutest shape
As view'd thro' optic lens.

In fact, he, from "the precipitous point of Cotopaxi," or "the Himalayan peaks"—for the locality is not certain—saw visions of the past and the future; but the arch fiend drew clouds over the awful vision, and then beneath his feet lay "the earth in full luxuriance"—

— So large

The prospect was, that here and there was room
For barren desert, fountainless and dry.—(Par. Reg.)

And then the Tempter, as of old, relates to him its past history, and shadows forth the future. With this Attila is satisfied, seeing that Rome's empire shall be his, if he be but true to himself—if he will but wage unceasing war against religion and humanity. Satan, as might be expected, is somewhat prolix; and Mr. Herbert has recourse to an ingenious expedient to cut short his discourse: it is the introduction of the German wild hunter:

When far aloof
Sounded that wizard horn, at midnight oft
Known in Hencryian wilds (the peasant's dread)
A strange and thrilling strain. "Thou hearst the chase
Of once thy proud forefather," darkling spoke
The sprite unseen. "Nemordron renown'd of yore,
A mighty hunter once and tyrant king.
At stilles' hour each night he winds his horn,
Still trooping over moss and forest drear
After the chase; till him his blood-hounds rend,
Nightly raised up, to feast the insatiate maw
Of that fell pack." He stopp'd, for nigher now
Rang the wild huntsman's horn, a fearful call,
Whereat each savage in his tangled lair
Upstarted from the wilds of Curdistan
Or Ashur-Nineveh to Kiölen's ridge;
And with Cerberian throats bay'd horribly
A thousand e'en dogs. Those sounds, intent,
The Hunnish coursers know; with ears erect,
Nostrils distended wide, and eyes like coals
Of glowing fire, he snuff'd the welcome blast;
And, once more, nothing doubtful, though thick night
With raven wing encircles him, renew'd
The ungovernable rage. With whoop and cry,
And yell of hellish discord, brake and cliff
The ravenous howl reverberate; and oft
A lash, more dread than the relentless scourge
Of those snake-hair'd avengers, from whose hate
The paricide demented flies in vain.

— in evil hour

Forth reaching to the fruit, she pluck'd, she eat!
Earth felt the wound, and nature from her seat
Sighing through all her works, gave signs of woe.

MILTON.

§ Earth trembled from her entrails.—MILTON.
We merely notice such passages, that they may not appear to have escaped observation—but it is not possible to read fifty lines of "Attila," without recalling to mind some scene, incident, passage, or expression, in Milton.

Clang'd, echoing thro' the shades. Still onward sprung,
Oft as that thong resounded, the pale horse
Of Attila precipitately borne
To join the horrid chase, which far before
Outstripp'd his speed! till, half in distance lost,
Shriek'd of the victim torn; by ruthless fangs
Came on the fearful breeze; then all was hush'd.
Right glad was Attila, when those sounds ceased;
And issuing from the gloom, he saw the sun
Smile on the dewy landscape. Onward straight
He pricks across the plain, to that huge camp,
Where thousands wait his will, to live or die.

Really this Nimrod is a wonderful personage. Moreover, we are told that he was the ancestor of Jove, which is giving to Jove a somewhat brief existence; for this celebrated god was merely the elder brother of Attila,—we speak Pythagorically,—for that Jove, Nimrod, Satan, Ariman, Odin, Arthur, and half a score besides, were one and the same being, cannot be doubted, after reading this Epic and the "Historical Treatise."

From Chalons, Attila repaired to his vast fortified camp in Hungary. But he soon prepared for his long-meditated march on Rome, and at length "the Hunnish deluge" swept the plains of northern Italy. Many fortresses were betrayed or reduced, and Aquileia only offered a vigorous resistance. The details of the siege and capture are here versified with tolerable minuteness, and with about the same utility as would attend the versification of the whole Roman history. On marched Attila, until the old bishop Leo met and denounced him; then

Awe-struck the monarch paused.
And held his speech; for round the man of God,
Who spoke, unconscious of the majesty
Wherewith heaven clothed his brow, celestial light
Stream'd downward, and upon his right and left
Two forms, to Attila alone reveal'd,
With venerable port and hoary brows,
Larger than living, and more glorious stood,
There was no voice, but close before the king
Martyr'd Barjona seem'd with splendour robed,
And he of Tarsus, his vindictive arm
Extending; as when whilom he rebuked
The sorceror in Paphos, and dried up
His fount of light, he turn'd his stern aspect
To that unhallow'd army, which stood nigh
Confiding, and with proud impatience chafed.
The king shrank back appal'd.

The "fiery-footed plague," too, now thinned his ranks, and "the Huns fell by thousands," so that the monarch was glad to seek refuge in his Pannonian stronghold, until he had recruited his numbers, when he vowed to perfect the work which he now left unfinished. But, as our poet assures us, there was no longer any success for him—the dark powers who had maintained him were leaving him for ever. On his passage through the Alps,—

Hot, impetuous,

Pale Grana moved beneath his stately freight,
As if he touch'd not earth. The rugged rocks
Beating around, and many a time-seathed pine
Frown'd o'er the mountain pass. Suddenly he stopp'd
Awe-smitten and aghast, like that famed horse
Arion, by the Goddess fury-form'd
To Neptune borne, and stall'd by Nereids,
When full before him, on the listed course,
Radiant Apollo held the Gorgon head
Upraised from Erebus. Erect he rear'd,
And from his flowing mane threw flakes of fire,
As terror lit his eyes; for in his path
A woman of terrific stature, arm'd
At every point, beset rode a con-like steed,
And high above her head a glittering lance
Held transverse; like those bright, uncouthly forms,
Which, seen by Arctic warriors at their close
Of life and glory, from the bloody field
Select the doon'd. A look of sad presage
She bent upon the king, and waved her hand
All gauntletted with steel, and, pointing South,
"Back, Attila!" she cried, "back! back!" but he
Impenitent, frown'd, and with his iron heel
Urged onwards that indomitable steed
Constrain'd unto his will. Wildly the horse
Sprang forwards, and beside the spectre fell
Stretch'd on his mighty flank, as if at once
Struck by death's angel. From his seat the Hun
Vaulted unharmed. With sorrow he survey'd
The comrade of his glorious perils, thus
Foredone amid his toils; then turn'd his braw
Lowering and stern to that portentous shape.
"Herald of evil, I await my time."
He said, but, as he spoke, upon his ear
Sounds came from far of fleeted hoofs, than e'er
To giant Zephyrus Harpulia bore.
And the fierce neighing of unbridled steeds;
And shadows flitted by, as when the wrack
Seuds fast before the wind; whereat from earth

Sprang Grana, and, as wont, whenever bray'd
The trumpet's clang for battle, or the call
Of huntsman sounded in Pannonian wilds,
Toss'd high his mane, and neigh'd, and snorting flung
His heels aloft; then, bounding, made escape
With that ill-omened phantom to the depths
Of leisure-haunted Hartz; and with him went
The fortunes of him fear'd above mankind.
Faune saith, in that dark forest he abides,
Unhited, rideless, seen dimly oft
By some affrighted hind, with headlong course
Speeding o'er all obstruction, while resounds
The nightly horn, with voices, not of men,
Borne faintly on the breeze, and o'er the waste
Pale flickering lights are seen, and evil fires.
Gloomy and mute the king of nations saw
His courier fade in distance; but not less
He journey'd home, nor turn'd aside, nor staid
His march o'er hill and plain, until he reach'd
The circling belt stupendous, that enclosed
The mighty space behind Sciambria's strength
E'en to the skirts of Krapac.

If ever subject were susceptible of poetic embellishment, it is the death of Attila—an event shrouded in a veil, impenetrable indeed, to the sober inquirer after facts, but for that reason the more favourable to the imagination. Whether it were natural or tragical—whether, if tragical, it was the work of Hun, or of Roman—can never indeed be known; but surely that imagination which creates all things at its will, might have discovered some more natural,—we might say, some less impossible,—than the one devised by our poet. He might have embellished the statement of Marcellinus, who mentions that the deed was perpetrated by a concubine, at the instigation of Attilus—or that of Jornandes, who asserts, that the catastrophe was occasioned by inebriety, and consequent suffocation. But what cause does he devise? Mycoltha, a Christian maiden, who detests both the king and his idolatrous faith, is the instrument of his death: but the event is produced by means so strange, so inadequate, that the reader will scarcely believe that we have faithfully transcribed the passage. She has been forcibly married to Attila, whose entrance into the bridal chamber she awaits with dread indeed, yet not without hope of divine intercession:—

A secret strength, breathed forth
As from the Highest, who is ever nigh
Those that with faithfulness and truth approach
His throne in prayer, upheld her; and she stood
So beautiful, so tranquil, that she seem'd
A thing too sanctified for mortal love.
But not to Attila forbearance mild
Or stay of passion came. By beauty's sight
And that abominable meal inflamed,
His throbbing pulse beat high; fierce rapture lit
His ardent gaze, and as of right he laid
Unholy touch upon her loveliness.
"Forbear, great king," the virgin spoke with port
Majestic, and therewith her feeble hand
Upon the dire teraphim, that adorn'd
His kingly breast with ruddy gold encased,
She placed repulsive. "There is One above
Can make the worm, wherein oppression breeds,
A stumbling-block to giants. Whether He wills,
For some wise end, that these weak limbs, which are
The temple of His Spirit, be made vile
By thy polluting force not, I know
That my Redeemer liveth, and His arm,
Which shall upraise me incorruptible
And pure before my God, by the frail hand
Of woman from the majesty of rule
Can hurl thee, if He will. O thou, great Lord,
Who, as the Hebrews tell, adjured dids give
The Danite blind Thy might, to overthrow
The Philistines and all their sculptured gods,
Arm me with strength!"

This said, her young frame nerv'd
By ecstasy of heaven-descended hope,
She flung the strong one from her, as the reed
Stoops to the wind. "O God! Thine arm was there!
The mighty one of earth, who in thine house
Boasted to plant the abomination, lay
Upon his couch a cors, from nose, mouth, ears,
Ejecting blood; the gurgling fountain choked
All utterance. Stretch'd in stillest ghastliness
There the world's dread, the terrible, the scourge
Of nations, the blasphem'er, is become
As nothing before thy consuming wrath.

If it be a rule in criticism as in philosophy, that every effect should be produced by an adequate cause, what are we to think of this description? What but that the author, with the best design, we admit,—that of vindicating the ways of Providence,—has outraged the common sense of his readers?

In conclusion, we may observe, Mr. Herbert

has approached his subject with so much of worthy preparation, that he is entitled to the most respectful attention; that, as must be apparent from our extracts, his work has many fine passages and noble thoughts scattered throughout; but it is not few, or many, or any number of such passages, that can determine the character of an Epic poem—such a work must be considered as a whole; and as a whole, 'Attila' is a failure. Mr. Herbert is a gentleman, he is a scholar—his sentiments are noble, and he is warmed by the most amiable zeal for the good of mankind: we everywhere see the philanthropist, everywhere the man of cultivated feeling, everywhere the high-minded moralist, everywhere the enlightened Christian minister; but he is no Epic poet, let the Edinburgh say what it may.

The Prisoners of Abd-el-Kader; or Five Months' Captivity among the Arabs, in 1836. By Mons. A. de France. Smith, Elder & Co. 1838.

The most austere critic must view indulgently the modest narrative of a young naval officer, who, running after partridges in an idle hour, was caught in the noose of a well-mounted Arab, and dragged off into captivity. There, deprived of the companionship of pen and ink, and with all his thoughts and feelings absorbed in the contemplation of his misery, it could not be expected that he should collect much valuable information. In the middle of August, 1836, the French brig *Loiret*, stationed at Arzew, about sixty leagues westward from Algiers, exercised her guns one day in firing at a mark near the beach,—and the officers, glad of a little amusement on shore, proposed, on the following day, to venture as far as the adjoining plain, and collect their shot. The Arabs, they were told, had all disappeared from that neighbourhood. They landed accordingly, and had proceeded but a short distance, when the eye of M. de France fell on the unlucky partridge which tempted him to separate himself from his companions. The sequel of his story shall be related in his own words:—

"I had scarcely advanced a few steps, when a troop of Arabs, issuing suddenly from the bottom of a ravine, from whence they watched a favourable opportunity of attacking our advanced posts, and carrying off the droves of cattle from the village of Arzew, pounced upon us with slackened rein, and surrounded us on all sides. Three horsemen advanced towards me, crying *semi! semi!* (friends) and those that followed them uttered the same shouts. Trusting to the favourable disposition of these Arabs, I turned towards the Doctor, to make him comprehend what they said, when one of the two made a movement to obtain possession of the musket which I held in my hand. Then comprehending the hostile intentions which the horsemen wished to conceal under the appearance of friendship, I withdrew my musket, placed it to my shoulder, aimed at the Arab who had sought to disarm me, and struck him with a ball, which broke his shoulder. He let his gun, still loaded, fall to the ground; he tottered, and was obliged, in order to prevent falling, to clasp the neck of his horse. I sprang to seize the gun, but two Arabs directed theirs at my head; I turned to avoid the shot; a ball wounded me slightly in the head, another passed through my shirt and glanced along my breast.

"I had not lost sight of the gun of the wounded man, and stooped down again to pick it up, when, feeling something rough slipping over my face, I placed my hands to it, and seized a cord, which surrounded my neck. At the same time a violent shock threw me to the ground, and an Arab, who had attached the end of this cord to his saddle-bow, spurred his horse, and dragged me off at full gallop.

"It was in vain to cry and beg for mercy: the Arab continued his rapid pace, dragging me, half strangled, over the rocks and brambles. This horrible punishment lasted for some minutes. At last the horse, compelled to mount a steep hillock,

slackened his pace, and I succeeded, not without difficulty, in raising myself. Then, stunned by the rude shock, my hands and face bruised and bloody, my legs torn, I know not how I still retained sufficient strength to seize the cord and to keep it up, so that it should not bear entirely on my neck; to run, to catch the horse, and hang on its tail. But as soon as the other Arabs, put to flight by the sailors who had hurried to our assistance, had rejoined us, they began to overwhelm me with insults, and tore my dress to rags. A single instant sufficed to strip me almost entirely."

When the Arabs had got beyond pursuit, their first thought of course was to decapitate their prisoner, but they contended so vehemently for the office of executioner, that the dispute was prolonged till the arrival of one who recommended that the Christian should be brought alive to the Sultan Abd-el-Kader, and this counsel at length prevailed. Our author was consequently marched off into the interior, experiencing on his way every variety of contumely and ill-treatment. On his arrival, however, in the camp of Abd-el-Kader,—the poverty and mean appearance of which surprised him,—he was clothed and fed, and even became in some degree reconciled to his misfortunes. Here is his description of that remarkable chieftain:—

"After all I had heard said of him, I expected to see a barbarian, always ready to cut off heads—a tiger, thirsty for blood; my expectation was much deceived.

"Abd-el-Kader is 28 years of age. He is little, being not more than five feet high; his face long, and of excessive paleness; his large black eyes are mild and caressing; his mouth small and graceful; his nose aquiline. His beard is thin, but very black. He wears a small moustache, which gives his features, naturally fine and benevolent, a martial air, which becomes him exceedingly. The ensemble of his physiognomy is sweet and agreeable. Mons. Bravais has told me that an Arab chief, whose name I have forgotten, being one day on board the 'Loiret,' in the captain's state-room, exclaimed, on seeing the portrait of a woman, whom the engraver had taken to personify Europe, 'There is Abd-el-Kader!' Abd-el-Kader has beautiful small hands and feet, and displays some coquetry in keeping them in order. He is always washing them. While conversing, squatted upon his cushions, he holds his toes in his fingers, or, if this posture fatigues him, he begins to pare, to clear the bottom of the nails with a knife and scissors, of which the mother-of-pearl handle is delicately worked, and which he has constantly in his hands. He affects an extreme simplicity in his dress."

Abd-el-Kader, who performed the Hodge, or pilgrimage to Mecca with his father, when he was only eight years old, owes his influence among the Arab tribes in a great degree to the sanctity of his character; but for the munitions of war he seems to be indebted to a kind of holy alliance, like that which binds together the arbitrary sympathies of certain European princes.

"It has been said (observes our author) that Abd-el-Kader obtained from the empire of Morocco neither money, powder, clothing, biscuit, nor arms. The information collected in Morocco is contradicted by the facts which Meurice and I were eye-witnesses of. The 7th August, 1836, a convoy arrived at the camp of Abd-el-Kader from Morocco, bringing shirts, caps, slippers, breeches, and cloaks, for six hundred men. Meurice saw this convoy, and has entered the date of his arrival at the camp in his note book.

On the 15th August, a convoy of fifteen camels, loaded with gunpowder and balls, arrived from Morocco. Meurice has also marked the following date in his book.—25th August. Abd-el-Kader has received from the empire of Morocco a supply of biscuits and saltpetre. When this last convoy was unloaded before Abd-el-Kader's tent, Ben-Faka called, and said, while counting the bales which the slaves were carrying to the magazines, 'See if the Sultan is not great! His power extends to the distance! his allies have not deserted him.'

The Arab chieftain's obligations to the Em-

peror of Morocco were acknowledged by a present so characteristic of the country, that we cannot omit to mention it. But we must first relate, in our author's language, an anecdote respecting the wild animals which formed a portion of it:—

"During our stay at Téknéfil, some Arabs had brought to the camp two young lion cubs and two young panthers. The care of these animals was entrusted to a choua, of the tribe of Atlas, the inhabitants of which district apply themselves exclusively to the chase and the trade in skins. The young lioness had not as yet any teeth. They placed them every evening in the midst of a herd of goats. An Arab laid a goat on the ground, and presented it to the cubs, which threw themselves upon their nurse, and sucked her voraciously. A quarter of mutton was thrown to the panthers, which they devoured with rage, but care was taken to cut it in two parts, otherwise they would have fought to obtain possession of the whole. The young lions were very quiet, and allowed themselves to be played with. The little panthers were irritable and wicked: they bit and scratched the Arabs who attempted to care them.

"A year previously they had brought a young lioness to Mascara, and had built a hut for her in the outskirts of the town. She ran about the streets of Mascara the whole day, at full liberty. The children played with her, mounted upon her back, pulled her by the tail, attempted to turn her over, and wrestled with her. She allowed herself to be teased without roaring; and amused herself in playing with the children, and biting without ever hurting them. A few days ago she was brought to the camp, and the Arabs played with her as they would have played with a dog.

"The choua, who took care of the animals, often asked us if we had any like them in our country.

"In our country," replied Fleury, "with all the assurance of a trooper, 'there are lions, tigers, panthers, and many other beasts of this kind, which run over the country in troops. They are more numerous than sheep, and more docile than horses.'

"The Arabs stared with astonishment."

Among the European prisoners brought to the camp of Abd-el-Kader were two married women,—one French, the other German—with their two daughters, both the latter extremely beautiful. These four females were destined for the Emperor of Morocco. The husband of the French lady was also a prisoner in the camp, and a spectator of the indignities offered to his wife and daughter, as well as of the preparations made to carry them into perpetual servitude. A number of frames or cages were made, in which were severely packed the ladies, wild beasts, some ostriches, and rolled carpets; and the cages being balanced on the backs of mules, the caravan with the imperial present set forward without further ceremony.

The narrative of M. de France presents little beside a heart-sickening repetition of torture, disease, and delirious agony. Many of his companions in bondage died of affliction, before an opportunity offered of releasing them by an exchange of prisoners.

Philological Researches—[Parallèle des Langues de l'Europe & de l'Inde]. Par F. G. Eichhoff. Paris, Dondey Dupré; London, Treuttel & Co.

THOUGH the investigation of etymologies, and the comparison of languages, are among the most pleasing studies of men of letters, they are for the most part dry and repulsive to the general reader; we shall, therefore, go very lightly over M. Eichhoff's valuable work, which comes to us recommended by the sanction of the Institute of France, and the approbation of the most enlightened philologists of the continent. The author's object is to show that the Sanscrit offers more striking analogies with the four families of European languages, the Graeco-Latin, the Teutonic, the Slavonic, and the Celtic, than

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they do with each other; that it furnishes the key for explaining not only their resemblances, but their dissimilarities; and, consequently, that it or some cognate language must have been the common parent of them all. The form of his argument, and its nature, may be described in a very few words.

M. Eichoff commences with the alphabets; he justly observes that the names and sounds of European letters have been borrowed from a family of languages, the Semitic, to which they have no analogy in structure, and that we must therefore be guided in our researches by an alphabet of sounds, such as the Sanscrit, in which the arrangement of the letters is also a philosophic classification of their powers. Proceeding to the examination of a class of words the most generally used, that is, the personal pronouns, he determines by a minute analysis the sound or letter which in every language examined is found to be the mark of each person. For instance, in the objective form of the first person singular this letter is *m*; for in Greek, Latin, and English it is *me*, in the Teutonic *mi*, in the Slavonic *mane*, and in the Indian *ma*; he then shows that where the four families agree they have borrowed from a common Sanscrit form, and where they differ, that both radical sounds will be found united in Sanscrit. He next proceeds to the consideration of particles, prefixes and terminations, which Horne Tooke has shown to be fragments of nouns and verbs, and having by a copious induction discovered their ideal meaning, he proves that its significance and force can be determined in all cases by the Sanscrit language, and in many by that only. Nouns and verbs are next investigated; in these the analogies are more obvious and striking, but not so convincing as in the preceding classes, because the transmission of names may have resulted from countless accidents of intercourse and colonization.

From the consideration of simple words, M. Eichoff proceeds to the examination of grammatical flexions, such as declination and conjugation; his analysis of these is very ingenious, and, in some respects, superior to Bopp's. In his appendix he gives some useful hints for the transcription of Oriental texts in European letters,—a subject, the importance of which we have frequently, and we trust not vainly, urged. The rule of the Oriental Translation Committee, requiring the system of Sir William Jones to be observed in all the publications issued under their superintendence, ought to be also enforced by the Asiatic Society; the very last number of their Journal contains discrepancies of orthography which ought not to have been admitted.

We have been greatly pleased with M. Eichoff's work: independently of the interest which attaches to the subject, it is recommended to us by its philosophic spirit and by its numerous examples of inductive analysis, which tend greatly to extend the domain of comparative grammar.

The Rural Life of England. By William Howitt. 2 vols. Longman & Co.

THERE is much that is pleasant and interesting in these volumes; but, as a whole, they have been over-elaborated. The 'Book of the Seasons' was pre-eminently successful; and Mr. Howitt, we suppose, gratified at its reception, resolved not to spare either labour or research to make the present worthy of the like patronage; but, unfortunately, the labour and research are sometimes apparent, where ease and familiarity alone would be graceful and becoming. What was desired and hoped for were fresh and vivid pictures of the labours and the pleasures, the outward and the inward life, of our rural population, high and low, rich and

poor; not dissertations and discussions—extracts from Willis or Cobbett—or talk about Homer, or Hesiod, Theocritus, or Cicero. It is not pleasant, when laughing and sporting with the gypsies, to have such very grave persons as Messrs. Grellman and Buttner, and Pallas, and Bartolomeo, rush in upon you like the *posse comitatus*, or, when luxuriating under the shade of melancholy boughs in the New Forest, to be stopped by a gentleman who insists on retailing to you all particulars about the Forest Laws, beginning with the Conqueror. We notice these things merely to indicate the nature of our objections—this done, we bear a willing testimony that the work contains many pleasant papers, and sketches of scenery,—of mountain and moorland, dingle and bushy dell and bosky bourn, that are equal to Copley Fielding, and only inferior to Nature herself. English Farmers, too—Farm Servants—Life in the Dales of Lancashire and Yorkshire, scenes of wild and lonely cottage life in the Highlands, and the country pleasures and pursuits of our mechanics, are all drawn and descanted upon with singular happiness; in fact, every paper is good where Mr. Howitt describes what he has seen and felt; but his reading, or his learning if he pleases, is out of place, and his philosophy jars on the ear which is attuned to other measures. There are also some pleasant papers, too, on Old English homes, a fine subject, and full of speculation. Mr. Howitt's visits to Newstead, Annesley, and Hucknall (See *Athenæum*, 1834), must yet live in remembrance with many of our readers; we shall therefore hang up, as a companion picture, a visit to Hardwick:

"Mrs. Jameson has lately given a very vivid and charming account of this fine old place. I am not going to tread in her steps, but to describe the impression it made upon myself at different times, in my own way, and with reference to my own object.

"My first visit to it was when I was a youth of about seventeen. I had heard nothing at all of it, and had no idea that it was an object of any particular interest. I was at Mansfield, and casually heard that the present Duke of Devonshire, its proprietor, was come of age, and that there, as at his other houses, his birth-day was to be kept by his tenants and the neighbouring peasantry in the old English style. The house lies about five miles to the north of Mansfield, not far from the Chesterfield road. I set off, and learning that there was a footway, I passed through one or two quiet, old-fashioned villages, through solitary fields and deep woody valleys, a road that for its beauty and out-of-the-world air delighted me exceedingly. I at length found myself at the entrance of a large old park. The tall towers of the hall had been my landmarks all the way, and now that unique building, standing on the broad, level plain, surrounded at a distance by the old oaks of the park, burst upon me with an unexpected effect. It was unlike anything I had seen; but there were solemn halls in the regions of poetry and romance, that my imagination immediately clasped it amongst. I advanced toward it with indescribable feelings of wonder and delight. I could have wished that it had been standing in its ordinary solitude, for that seemed to my mind its true and natural state; but it was not so: around it swarmed crowds of rustic revellers, and I determined to take things as I found them; to consider this very scene as a feature of the olden time; and to see how it went, about the baronial dwellings in the feudal ages, on occasions like that."

"In what a far different aspect did it present itself when I next saw it; and with what a far different company did I witness it! It was on one of the most glorious days of a splendid summer that we passed under the shadow of its oaks, as happy and attached a company as ever met on earth. Ah! they are all dispersed now! Out of a dozen glad hearts, not more than three are living now. But let me forget that. We were a joyful band of tried friends then. All, except myself and a young Yorkshire damsel, light as a sylph, and lovely and frolic as a fairy, were in carriages; we were on horseback; and

scarcely had we entered the park, when, as if the sight of its fine level had filled her with an irresistible desire to scour across it, the madcap gave her horse the rein, and darted away. Under the boughs of the oaks she stooped, and flew along with arrowy swiftness. Every moment I expected to see her caught by one of them, and dashed to the ground; but she was too practised a horsewoman for that: she cleared the trees; the deer bounded away as she came galloping towards them, and turned and gazed at her from a distance; the rooks, and daws, and lapwings feeding on the turf, soared up and raised wild cries; but she sped on, and there was nothing for me to do but to follow. I spurred forwards, but it was only to see her rush, at the same reckless speed, down a deep descent, where one trip of her horse—and nothing was more likely—and she would have flown over his head to certain death. Yet down she went, and down I followed; but ere I reached the bottom, she was urging her horse up a steep ascent, on whose summit, as I approached it, I found her seated on her panting steed, laughing at her exploit and my face of wonder.

"When we reached the Hall, there were all our friends in the court, and the kind-hearted old gentleman, the head of the party, standing at the great hall door, laughing heartily at the attempts of each of the youngsters in succession to walk blindfold up a single row of the flags that lead from the court-gates to the house. Every one began full of confidence; but the laughter and cries of the rest, soon proclaimed the failure of the enterprise. When it came to the turn of our merry madcap, up she walked with a bold step, and course as straight as if guided by a clue, from gate to door. All at once exclaimed that she could see, and busy hands were soon at work to fasten the handkerchief so artfully round her head, that she could not possibly get a glimpse of daylight. Again she was led to the gate, and again she marched up to the door as quickly and directly as before. The wonder was great; but still it was asserted that she must see:—it was that fine Grecian nose of hers that permitted a glance down beside it, enough for the guidance of the spirited damsel; so handkerchief was bound on handkerchief, slant and athwart, to exclude every possibility of seeing; and again she was set at the gate; and again went gaily and confidently to the door without one erring footprint. There was a general murmur of applause and wonder. I see that light and buoyant figure still advancing up the line of flags; I see those golden locks dancing in the sunshine as she went; I see that lovely countenance, those blue and laughing eyes, full of a merry triumph, as her friends unbound her beautiful head. I see the same glad creature, all vivacity and happiness, now sitting on the warm turf, now bounding up long flights of stairs; now standing, to the terror of her companions, on the jutting edge of a ruinous tower;—and can it be true, that that fairy creature has long been dead? * * * But no black presage came before us there. All around was summer sunshine; we explored every nook of that old ivied ruin, the older house of Hardwick, in which the Queen of Scots was confined; paced the celebrated banqueting room, adorned with the figures of Gog and Magog, with an angel flying between them with a drawn sword. We rambled over the leaden roof, and in the happy folly of youth, marked each other's foot upon it, with duly inscribed names and date. We went all through the present house; through its tapestried rooms, along its gallery, into its ancient chapel, and up to its armoury, a tower on the roof; and finally adjourned to the neat little inn at Glapwell, to a merry tea, and thence home.

"My next visit to Hardwick was last autumn. My companions now were, my true associate for the last seventeen years, and one little boy and girl, who, as we advanced up the park, rambled on before us in eager delight. Twenty years had passed since that youthful party I have just mentioned was there;—twenty years to me of many sober experiences; of naturally extended knowledge; of observation of our old English houses in various parts of the kingdom: but as I once more approached Hardwick, I felt that it had lost none of its effect,—nay, that that effect was actually increased: it was more unworldly, more unlike anything else, or anything belonging to common life; more poetical, more crowned and over-

shadowed with beautiful and solemn associations, than it was when I first beheld it in my youth. The distance you have to advance, from the moment you emerge from amongst the trees of the park into a full view of the Hall, until you reach it, tends greatly to heighten its effect. There it stands, bold and alone, on a wide unobstructed plain.

"No trees crowd upon it, or break, for a moment, the view; it lifts itself up in all its solemn and unique grandeur to the blue heavens, like a fairy palace, in the days of old Romance. It is a thing expressly of by-gone times—darkened indeed by age, but not injured. Unlike modern mansions, you see no bustle of human life about it; no gardens and shrubberies; but wings of grey, and not very high walls, extending to a considerable distance over the plain, from each end of the house, inclosing what gardens there are, and paddocks. You see no offices appended—it seems a place freed from all mortal necessities—inhabited by beings above them. All offices, in fact, that are not included within the regular walls of the house, are removed to a considerable distance with the farm-yard. As you draw near, its grave aspect strikes you more strongly; you become more sensible of its loftiness, of the vast size of its windows, and of that singular parapet which surmounts it. It is an oblong building, with three square towers at each end, both projecting from, and rising much higher than, the body of the building. The parapet surmounting these towers is a singular piece of open-work of sweeping lines of stone, displaying the initials of the builder, E.S.—Elizabeth Shrewsbury,—surmounted with the coronet of an earl. • *

"The Duke was come hither from Chatsworth, to spend a week, and he seemed to have come in the spirit besetting the place; for there was scarcely more than its usual establishment; scarcely less than its usual quietness perceptible. The Duke himself we had met on the road, and in his absence were shown through the apartments which he uses on these occasions; and it had a curious effect amid all this staid and sombre antiquity, to find, on a plain oak table in the library, the newspapers of the day; the Atheneum, Court Journal, the Spectator, and Edinburgh Review; the works of Dr. Channing; and Hood's Tyne Hall, just then published. What an antithesis! what a mighty contrast between the spirit of the past and the present!—the life and stir of the politics and the passing literature of the day, in a place belonging to history, character, and all its appointments to an age so different, and so long gone by, with all its people and concerns."

We cannot conclude without making honourable mention of the many beautiful woodcuts, designed and engraved by Mr. Samuel Williams—and noticing, with pleasure, that Mr. Howitt announces as forthcoming, a work entitled 'Visits to remarkable Places, Old Halls, Battle Fields, and Scenes illustrative of striking Passages in English History and Poetry.'

The Book of the Cartoons.

[Concluding Notice.]

Two papers already on this subject, though of unusual length, have scarce enabled us to redeem Mr. Cattermole's pledge to the public, by furnishing visitors to Hampton Court with what his 'Book of the Cartoons' promised in that name to provide. We feel ourselves called upon for yet a third eleemosynary contribution towards his very necessitous volume. Our author avows himself quite "of the opposite temper to that which is 'nothing if not critical': we beg leave to answer—then he should by no means have undertaken such a work; for it demands criticism of the very profoundest and most penetrating, as well as of the highest and most comprehensive order. He should have left the despicable task to such poor-spirited, pitiful writers as Sir Joshua Reynolds, Fuseli, M. de Quincy, &c. who deemed the employment on a level with their ignoble capacities; nor ever have dismounted his mind—*ad luc sublimia curans*—from the zodiac of its transcendental pursuits, to grovel with those petty luminaries, these glow-

worms in the reptile tracks of criticism. But we cannot altogether credit him to so large an amount of this magnanimous temper as he would fain be charged with: our preceding papers, we think, gave extracts from his volume sufficient to prove him, not indeed critical, but *hyper-critical*; seeing that a writer may over-subtilize, and over-refine, upon any other subject as well as the artistic; and play the ferret after beauties as well as imperfections, which would never appear unless thus worried out. To present us, in a review of the Cartoons, with a morbid exaggeration of one among their many merits, instead of a wholesome discussion upon them all, brings home the charge of hyper-criticism as heavily as if the rhapsodist had been ever so iron an examiner. For ourselves we dislike hyper-criticism, in art as in everything else; but its opposite likewise, we respect little more,—viz. superficiality. The opinions our previous notices set forth are compiled from those critics whom it did not degrade to utter them, nor would it have misbecome Mr. Cattermole to repeat them, either as duty bound to their authors or the public. This had been far more beneficial than accumulating masses of encomium upon what was loaded enough with that candy by previous panegyrist. He might have bethought him what an immense fraction of this most civilized people is still, if the truth must be told, in savage state, as respects real appreciative sense and exalted taste for Art; and how much his readers want the very sort of precise and professional knowledge on the subject which he has thought proper to deny them. Let us make bold to assure the writer on artistic subjects of one truth: Beauty is not to be comprehended by a consideration of itself alone; he must ever keep Deformity within view beside, as an opponent parallel, or *directrix* from which to lay off all points as far as possible; he must weigh in a hair-balance even the nicest faults before he can come at a full idea of perfection. Beauty and deformity are correlative, and one cannot be explained without a comparison with the other. Hence it happens that elevated, purified taste will oftentimes find and point out faults in the best models, whilst a superficial and sorry criticism will creep for ever on the belly of adulation before them: Longinus will reprehend Homer and Demosthenes, Flaxman call the Medicane Venus "a deteriorated variety of the Cnidian," but our bedazzled and weak-eyed worshippers will draw the film of their own blindness over that of the public, condemning it to double darkness, by strings of eulogies upon a Byron poem or a Lawrence portrait, which the Nine Muses, or the Three Graces, in a joint production could not deserve. Between eternal strophe and antistrophe of praise, our author's hymn about the altar of Raffael sounds like a birthday ode than a critique. Let him flatter himself as he will on his greatness of soul, it can never sanction indiscriminate appraisement of things: the temper of mind he boasts is not at all that in which Art should be viewed, unless the object were to keep the public as mere charity-children for swelling a chorus of compliments, without thought or rational impulse, when the clerk once pitches the key. Our remarks upon this subject have a wider scope than Mr. Cattermole's proslogion: criticism may, and we think at present does, err quite as much by unmilitated praise as censure. Could thicker clouds of incense envelope the statue of Milton or Michaelangelo than are offered up every day under the noses of many a living author and artist who shall be nameless? What is the result?—self-satisfaction, and thence mediocrity. Not even Raffael himself would have become the *Divine* if flatterers had persuaded him, when but the little ape of Perugino, that he was already the God of Painting. After the idol has crum-

bled down to his original clay, little harm indeed can be done him by any extreme of adoration: truth and public taste, however, are not served by it. We relieve Mr. Cattermole from the suspicion of insincerity, but at the expense of his judgment and knowledge, when he sums up his account of the *Farnesina* and the *Fornarina* painter, and the *Apuleian* illustrator, with the monstrous hyperbolism—that this "pure-minded" martyr to Cyprian enjoyments, whose pencil was never "polluted by pandering to merely voluptuous tastes, seems happily to have been employed in tracing 'no line which dying he could wish to blot'." Ay, a thousand lines; and many even in his pure-minded works, such as the Cartoons: to say otherwise is to put forth either unwarrantable criticism or false biography.*

We have no wish to break a literary moth on the wheel; our strictures have taken a volume and extent proportional to those masterpieces of painting which consecrate Hampton Court, not to the treatise about them: did this come before us as the "*Boy's own Book of the Cartoons*," we should perhaps praise it for so precisely fulfilling its estimable object. But as the case stands, we cannot, in justice to the Pictures, yet dismiss it. Another head upon which we note it as deficient is the *historical*. A whole book, to deserve the grandiloquent title assumed by that under review, should furnish us with the history of these Cartoons in its full and faithful detail. Peradventure our author may plume himself on his want of "critical" science here also? If this be a feather, without doubt he is qualified to wear one of *Tilly* dimensions! We are at some loss to decide whether his account be more mistaken or meagre. Indeed, he goes out of his way to prove his beatific state of ignorance at large upon Art; for he tells us the "*Stanze di Raffaelle* represent, in a grand series, the universal triumph of Christianity;" although three huge Pagan subjects—the School of Athens—the Parnassus—and the Allegorical Lunette—overtopping the very Alps with unconcealable sublimity, stare down the assertion even at this distance! How likewise, let us ask, does he purpose to reconcile those rather plump contradictions, both comprised in the tail of a single sentence (page 11), that the Tapestries were meant as a "decoration for the *Hall of Constantine*, a chamber already adorned by his hand"? What! were the tapesstries to be hung over and upon the frescos which fill its sides? There is no other place in that hall to receive them, unless the floor: does Mr. Cattermole suppose Raffael to have painted the Cartoons as patterns for *Brussels carpeting*? The *Hall of Constantine* was not adorned by Raffael's hand, except so far as two single figures out of several hundred, nor by hangings after his designs. But thus now-a-days we write history! Mr. Cattermole's very next position is something short of gospel: he pronounces that the Cartoons "must have been made within the last two years of the artist's career:" notwithstanding this piece of conjectural absolutism they were made in 1515 and 1516, four or five years prior to his death in 1520, as the steward-books of St. Peter's demonstrate.† After taking breath for the time of another full stop, our historian proceeds to the round assertion, that the Cartoons by Raffael were "no less than twenty-five"; without any such scruple as has shaken the head of wiser men on the subject. Authors pro and con will be stated presently. More-

* We must not be imagined puritanical enough to cite Raffael out of his grave for the Papilian matters above said; we only assert they impair his claims to the super-sanctified character with which a forward zeal invests him.

† See Carlo Fea's "Notizie intorno di Raffaelle," p. 71, which also extracts the price paid Sanzio—viz. 434 ducats, or 737 scudi 80 bajocchi. That judicious apportioner of his patronage, Leo X., gave 2000 ducats *a-piece* for the tapestries!

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over, he misquotes the inscription upon two of the arras borders, which tells when they were restored after Bourbon's spoliation of Rome; and misstates the particular two, specifying as one of them a tapestry burnt at Leghorn by his own confession in the very next page! Such are among the effects of a temper "the opposite to critical." We remedy these errors below:‡ There cannot be many others? Yea! we might fagot them: but we shall enumerate those alone which it is important to correct. He repeats with amiable credulity, as a text never questioned, that most apocryphal piece of tradition about Charles I. purchasing the Cartoons at the suggestion of Rubens,—a monument built to the glory of both upon no surer foundation than supports a *château d'Espagne*. Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, indeed, bought at Antwerp the collection of Rubens for 10,000*l.*, and these pictures may have formed part of it; and if they did, Charles may have obtained them from that tasteful roué, the real importer. Yet again: our sagacious author acquaints us that the Cartoons were cut into pieces for the purpose of being packed up (page 14); in the plenitude of our simplicity we had always imagined it was for the purpose of being copied by the arras-workers: behold to what illegitimate conclusions our modicum of critical knowledge leads us, and what a soothsayer his contempt of it has made Mr. Cattermole! The poorest German compiler would be ashamed to treat any subject which the reputation of Raffael sanctified with negligence so gross.

From the Steward-books above cited, it appears, that **TEN** was the number of the original Cartoons. These comprise the Hampton Court seven, with three others now lost—the Conversion of St. Paul, the Earthquake at Lystra, and the Stoning of St. Stephen. This series restricts itself to the history of the *Apostles*. Ten Arras imitations adorned the Sistine Chapel. If proof of the number were needed, beyond such documentary evidence, a most ingenious dissertation on the Tapestries, by Chevalier Bunsen, the Prussian Minister at Rome, would suggest it; he shows how they precisely fitted the compartments of the Sistine *Presbyterium*, or room within the screen, four on each side, and two on the wing-spaces next the altar. We cannot be more specific here, but must refer to his *Anhang* in the work our last foot-note mentions, for a novel and beautiful illustration of the fact. A second series of Tapestries decorated part of the old Vatican Basilica, till its destruction under Paul V.; afterwards embellishing the present vestibule of St. Peter's on certain holidays. These two series were so different, not only in size, but style, that they got distinctive names: tapestries of the Old School, and of the New. On all the former are Leo's escutcheon and emblems, as if prepared for him; on the other are none, which in held to signify that they were either a present, or a purchase when ready-made. M. Plattner, a discriminating and artistic connoisseur, judging from what he calls a Netherlandish character of design in the latter series, ascribes these Cartoons to Van Orley, and Michael Coxis, mimics of Raffael, and superintendants of the first tapestries. He thinks them, however, founded on sketches and ideas, thrown out by the great

‡ Inscription: Urbe capta partem anlaeorum a prædonib. distractam conquistant. Anna Mormorancius Gallice Milie. Pref. resarcendam atq. Julio III. P.M. restituendam curavit. 1553. Besides other differences, Mr. Cattermole's version (probably taken at second or third hand from Cancellieri) reads *Conquestabilis* for *conquistant*, and *restaurandam* for *resarcendum*, omitting the *date* altogether. We have quoted from a work by recent, accurate, and scientific observers, MM. Bunsen, Plattner, Gerhard, &c. in their *Beschreibung des Stadt Rom*, only venturing to rectify one or two typographic errata of little moment. The borders inscribed are those of St. Paul Preaching, and the Miraculous Draught, not the Presentation and Descent into Hell, as Mr. Cattermole says.

master. Richardson, the younger, maintains that several detached heads from the fragmentary Cartoons, are equal to those of the integral Seven, whence the former likewise would be genuine: M. Plattner rejects this argument, as the fragments might belong to the three lost pictures of the undisputed series: but, we submit, that one of the *Oxford Heads*, at least, is by Raffael, and it belongs to the 'Massacre of the Innocents,' a Cartoon of the second series. Besides, Richardson junior mentions, among the "50 morceaux" his father bought, one which betrayed the black crayon of Raffael, and even its *pentimenti*, under the scaled-off colours,—and these portions pertained to the 'Massacre,' the 'Nativity,' and the 'Adoration of the Magi.' Whether Giulio, Penni, Van Orley, or Coxis, may have finished Cartoons, in which Raffael had painted some few heads, may remain a question: this is the sole hypothesis we can offer to reconcile the varying opinions. M. Passavant expresses a doubt as to the Althorp fragment having proceeded from Raffael's pencil; whilst the Prince Hoare fragment has been so heavily overgilded with oils, that the original work is scarcely distinguishable.

One of the strangest circumstances in the history of these celebrated works, may close our appendix: we mean, their being surrendered to mutilation and mal-treatment by one sovereign Macænas, to neglect by another, rescued and raised to especial favour by a British and a Dutch boor, as respects the Fine Arts. Leo X. could prevail upon himself, for the sake of carpeting his chapel walls with gilded rugs, and worsted frippery, to send these masterpieces of Raffael a circumnavigation of half Europe, and let them be cut into *stripes* at the will of Flemish weavers, subject to all injuries from those rude manipulators, their combustible workshops, and their raw climate. This too, when copies might have been traced, which had answered well enough to promote such an object of gouty ambition, as a warm, rich-hung chamber to pray in! It was more the ill-luck than intention, we can well believe, of Charles I., that the said stripes were packed up, and packed aside for the benefit of moths, grubs, and the first Barebone tailor who chose to snip the material into yet narrower measures: he who could not save his head, could hardly preserve his chattels. On the other hand, Cromwell, no great pretender to *virtù*, had plain sagacity enough to select *these* as his lion-share of the prey, when Charles's collection was dispersed, and thus secured for England what would else perhaps have gone to France or Spain. William III. also, less known as a patron of the fine than the rough arts, such as strategy and fortification, built a palace-wing to receive the Cartoons, which had till then been consigned to a box, and tossed about like ballast, whilst the vessel of state lay rolling and gradually righting. But the most shameless act of abandonment with regard to them, was perpetrated by that cold-blooded debauché, Charles II.: this sceptered lickspittle of Louis XIV. had sold our Cartoons underhand, as he did Dunkerque, to the French Minister, Barillon; when Lord Danby got wind of the king's treason against the country, and (immortal be his praise!) quashed the plot. Richardson relates the anecdote from Danby's own mouth: yet, Mr. Cattermole, in his horror of being "critical," and as if Richardson's vade-mecum on Art were a sealed book to him, affirms, that from the time of Cromwell's purchase, "nothing further was known respecting the Cartoons, till the time of William III!"

Sundry other errors might be pointed out; sundry other additions crowd upon us for place: our difficulty is through the multitude of materials where to stop, as that of our author seems how to go on thro' lack of the same. But we can

devote no more time to this book so unworthy of its subject: unworthy in every particular—the engravings are execrable.

Hood's Own; or, Laughter from Year to Year. No. I. Baily & Co.

HERE we have the first number of 'Hood's Own'—and a very pretty first number it is; three goodly octavo sheets of closely-packed type, with five and twenty wood-cuts, for one shilling. This, indeed, is keeping the word of promise, and trying the principle of condensation at high pressure. By way of Preface, we have 'An Inaugural Discourse on a certain System of Practical Philosophy,' from which the public will learn, with regret, that their old and pleasant friend has been a sad sufferer of late in the way of health; and from which they *may* learn, how, under like circumstances, to bear up cheerfully, with good heart and hope; for, as we have taken occasion to observe many times before, it is a peculiarity in Mr. Hood's writings, that however fun, and pun, and joke, and nonsense may float upon the surface, there is always an undercurrent of truth and feeling, if worldly philosophy had but leisure to find it out. It is thus he addresses the reader whom he presumes to have been acquainted with the Comic Annual from its Child-Hood:—

"How many years is it, think you, 'since we were first acquent?' 'By the deep nine!' sings out the old bald *Court Fathom* with the lead-line: no great lapse in the world's chronology, but a space of infinite importance in individual history. For instance, it has wrought a serious change on the body if not on the mind of your very humble servant:—it is not, however, to bespeak your sympathy, or to indulge in what Lord Byron calls 'the gloomy vanity of drawing from self,' that I allude to my personal experience. • • • The simple truth is, that being a wiser but not sadder man, I propose to admit you to my Private View of the system of Practical Cheerful Philosophy, thanks to which, perchance, the cranium of your Humourist is still secure from such a lecture as was delivered over the skull of Poor Yorick.

"In the absence of a certain thin 'blue-and-yellow' visage, and attenuated figure,—whose effigies may one day be affixed to the present work,—you will not be prepared to learn that some of the merriest effusions in the forthcoming numbers have been the relaxations of a gentleman literally enjoying bad health. The very fingers so aristocratically slender, that now hold the pen, hint plainly of the 'ills that flesh is heir to':—my coats have become great coats, my pantaloons are turned into trowsers, and, by a worse bargain than Peter Schlemihl's, I seem to have retained my shadow, and sold my substance. In short, as happens to prematurely old port wine, I am of a bad colour, with very little body. But what then? That emaciated hand still lends a hand to embody in words and sketches the creations or recreations of a Merry Fancy: those gaunt sides yet shake heartily as ever at the Grotesques and Arabesques, and droll Picturesques that my Good Genius (a Pantagruelian Familiar) charitably conjures up to divert me from more sombre realities. **

"How else could I have converted a serious illness into a comic wellness—by what other agency could I have transported myself, as a Cockney would say, from *Dullage* to *Grinage*? It was far from a practical joke to be laid up in ordinary in a foreign land, under the care of Physicians quite as much abroad as myself, with the case; indeed, the shades of the gloaming were stealing over my prospect; but I resolved, that, like the sun, so long as my day lasted, I would look on the bright side of everything. The raven croaked, but I persuaded myself that it was the nightingale: there was the smell of the mould, but I remembered that it nourished the violets. However my body might cry craven, my mind luckily had no mind to give in. So, instead of mounting on the black long-tailed coach horse, she vaulted on her old Hobby that had capered in the Morris Dance, and began to exhort from its back. To be sure, said she, matters look darkly enough; but the more need for the lights. Allons! Courage!

Things may take a turn, as the pig said on the spit. Never throw down your cards, but play out the game. The more certain to lose, the wiser to get all the play you can for your money. Come—give us a song! chirp away like that best of cricket-players, the cricket himself. Be bowled out or caught out, but never throw down the bat. You cannot eat, you say, and you must not drink; but laugh and make believe, like the Barber's wise brother at the Barbecue's feast. * * Of course, continued my mind, I am quite disinterested in this advice—for I am aware of my own immortality—but for that very reason, take care of the mortal body, poor body, and give it as long a day as you can.

"Now, my mind seeming to treat the matter very pleasantly as well as profitably, I followed her counsel, and instead of calling out for relief according to the fable, I kept along on my journey with my bundle of sticks—i.e., my arms and legs. * * So huzza! my boys! Comus and Momus for ever! No Heracitus! Nine times nine for Democritus! And here goes my last bottle of Elixir at the heads of the Blue Devils—he they Prussian blue or indigo, powder-blue, or ultramarine!

"Gentle reader, how do you like this Laughing Philosophy? The joyous cheers you have just heard, come from a crazy vessel that has clawed, by miracle, off a lee-shore, and I, the skipper, am sitting down to my grog, and re-counting to you the tale of the past danger, with the manoeuvres that were used to escape the perilous Point. Or rather, consider me as the Director of a Life Assurance, pointing out to you a most beneficial policy, whereby you may eke out your natural term. And, firstly, take precious care of your precious health. * * Consider it as your best friend, and think as well of it, in spite of all its foibles, as you can. For instance, never dream, though you may have a 'clever hack,' of galloping consumption, or indulge in the Meltonian belief, that you are going the pace. Hold up, as the shooter says, over the heaviest ground. Despondency in a nice case is the over-weight, that may make you kick the beam and the bucket both at once. In short, as with other cases, never meet trouble half-way, but let him have the whole walk for his pains; though it should be a Scotch mile and a bittock. The best fence against care is a ha! ha!—wherefore, take care to have one all round you wherever you can. Let your 'lunge crow like Chanticleer,' and as like a GAME cock as possible. It expands the chest, enlarges the heart, quickens the circulation, and 'like a trumpet makes the spirits dance.' A fico for the Chesterfieldian canon, that laughter is an ungenteel emotion. Smiles are tolerated by the very pinks of politeness; and a laugh is but the full-blown flower of which a smile is the bud. It is a sort of vocal music—a glee in which everybody can take a part. *

"Such, dear reader, is the cheerful Philosophy which I practise as well as preach. It teaches to 'make a sunshine in a shady place,' to render the mind independent of external foul weather, by compelling it, as old Absolute says, to get a sun and moon of its own. As the system has worked so well in my own case, it is a duty to recommend it to others: and like certain practitioners, who not only prescribe but dispense their own medicines, I have prepared a regular course of light reading, whereof I now present the first packet, in the humble hope that your dull hours may be amused, and your cares diverted by the laughing lucubrations which have enlivened Hood's Own."

We shall now give a specimen of those occasional Whims and Oddities which the periodical appearance of the work not only offers opportunities for, but will no doubt suggest. Thus the Concert Season opens with—

An Ancient Concert.

BY A VENERABLE DIRECTOR.

"Give me old music—let me hear
The songs of days gone by!"—H. F. CHORLEY.
O! come all ye who love to hear
An ancient song in ancient taste,
To whom all bygone Music's dear,
As verdant spots in Memory's waste!
Its name the "Ancient Concert" wrongs,
And has not hit the proper cleft,
To wit, Old Folks, to sing Old Songs,
To old Subscribers rather deaf.

Away, then, Hawes! with all your band!
Ye beardless boys, this room desert!
One youthful voice, or youthful hand,
Our concert-pitch would disconcert!
No Bird must join our "vocal throng."
The present age beheld at font:
Away, then, all ye "Sons of Song."
Your Fathers are the men we want!
* * *

Our Concert aims to give at night,
The music that has had its day,
So, Rooke, for us you cannot write
Till time has made you *Raven* grey.
Your score may charm a modern ear,
Nay, ours, when three or fourscore old,
But in this Ancient atmosphere,
Fresh airs like yours would give us cold!

Go, Hawes, and Cawse, and Woodynt, go!
Hence, Shrifff, with those native curls!
And Master Coward ought to know
This is no place for boys and girls!
No Massons here we wish to see;
Nor is it Mrs. Seguin's sphere,
And Mrs. B.—? Oh! Mrs. B.—
Such Bishops are not reverend here!

What! Grisi, bright and beaming thus?
To sing the songs gone grey with age!
No, Grisi, no,—but come to us
And welcome, when you leave the stage!
Off, Ivanhoff!—till weak and harsh!—
Rubini, hence! with all the clan!
But come, Lablache, years hence, Lablache,
A little shrivell'd thin old man!

Go, Mr. Phillips, where you please!
Away, Tom Cooke, and all your batch;
You'd run us out of breath with Gleee,
And Catches that we could not catch.
Away, ye Leaders all, who lead
With violins, quite modern things;
To guide our Ancient hand we need
Old fiddles out of leading strings!
* * *

No thundering Thalbergs here shall balk
Or ride your pet *Dcadence* o'er,
But fingers with a little chalk
Shall, moderate, keep the score!
No Broadwoods here, so full of tone,
But Harpsicords assist the strain:
No Lincoln's pipes, we have our own
Bird-Organ, built by Tubal-Cain.
* * *

O come, ye ancient London Cries,
When Christmas Carols erst were sung!
Come, Nurse, who dron'd the lullabies,
"When Music heavenly Madam, was young!"
No matter how the critics treat
What modern sins and faults detect,
The Copy-Book shall still repeat,
These Concerts must "command respect!"

But we are hurrying over the pleasant leaves for our personal gratification, forgetful that such of our readers as have not been magnetised, cannot read without seeing, or understand the nature and contents of the work, unless we proceed, after the old and vulgar fashion, deliberately to inform them. This first number, then, in addition to the novelties, contains the inimitable 'Pugsley Papers'—'The Letters from an Emigrant'—'The Last Shilling'—'A Report from Below'—'Ode to Brunel'—'The Death of the Domine'—'Over the Way'—'A Plan for writing Blank Verse in Rhyme'—'A Letter to the Horticultural Society'—and 'Domestic Asides.'

Before we take leave, we must have one other dip in the lucky-bag. Here are three prizes—

Black, White, and Brown.

"All at once Miss Morbid left off sugar.

"She did not resign it as some persons lay down their carriage, the full-bodied family-coach dwindling into a chariot, next into a fly, and then into a sedan-chair. She did not shade it off artistically, like certain household economists, from white to whitish-brown, brown, dark-brown, and so on, to none at all. * * She dropped it,—as Corporal Trim let fall his hat,—dab. It vanished, as the French say, *tout sweet*. From the 30th of November, 1830, not an ounce of sugar, to use Miss Morbid's own expression, ever 'darkened her doors.'

"The truth was, she had been present the day before at an Anti-Slavery Meeting; and had listened to a lecturing Abolitionist, who had drawn her sweet tooth, root and branch, out of her head. Thenceforth sugar, or as she called it, 'shugger,' was no longer white, or brown, in her eyes, but red, blood red—an abomination, to indulge in which would convert a professing Christian into a practical Cannibal. Accordingly she made a vow, under the influence of

moist eyes and refined feelings, that the sanguinary article should never more enter her lips or her house; and this petty parody of the famous Berlin Decree against our Colonial produce was rigidly enforced. *

"In the meantime, the cook and housemaid grumbled in concert at the prohibition: they naturally thought it very hard to be deprived of a luxury which they enjoyed at their own proper cost; and at last only consented to remain in the service, on condition that the privation should be handsomely considered in their wages. With a hope of being similarly remembered in her will, the poor relations of Miss Morbid continued to drink the 'warm without.' * * The greatest sufferers, however, were Miss Morbid's two nephews, still in the morning of their youth, and boy-like, far more inclined to 'sip the sweets' than to 'hail the dawn.' They had formerly looked on their Aunt's house as peculiarly a Dulce Domum. Prior to her sudden conversion, she had been famous for the manufacture of a sort of hard-bake, commonly called Toffy or Taffy—but now, alas! Taffy was not at home, and there was nothing else to invite a call. Currant tart is tart indeed without sugar; and as for the green gooseberries, they always tasted, as the young gentlemen affirmed, 'like a quart of berries sharpened to a pint.' * * To tell the truth, her own temper soured a little under the prohibition. * * She persevered notwithstanding in her system; and to the constancy of a martyr added something of the wilfulness of a bigot;—indeed, it was hinted by patrons and patronesses of white charities, that European objects had not their *fair* share in her benevolence. She was pre-eminently the friend of the blacks. Howbeit, for all her sacrifices, not a lash was averted from their sable backs. She had raised discontent in the kitchen, she had disgusted her acquaintance, sickened her friends, and given her own dear little nephews the stomach-ache, without saving Quashy from one cut of the driver's whip, or diverting a single kick from the shins of Sambo. Her grocer complained loudly of being called a dealer in human gore, yet not one hogshead the less was imported from the Plantations. By an error common to all her class, she mistook a negative for a positive principle; and persuaded herself, that by *not* preserving damsons, she preserved the Niggers; that by *not* sweetening her own cup, she was dueling the lot of all her sable brethren in bondage. She persevered accordingly in setting her face against sugar instead of slavery—against the plant instead of the planter; and had actually abstained for six months from the forbidden article, when a circumstance occurred that roused her sympathies into more active exertions. It pleased an American lady to import with her a black female servant, whom she rather abruptly dismissed, on her arrival in England. The case was considered by the Hampshire Telegraph of that day, as one of GREAT HARDSHIRE; the paragraph went the round of the papers—and in due time attracted the notice of Miss Morbid. It was precisely addressed to her sensibilities, and there was a 'Try Warren' tone about it that proved irresistible. She read—and wrote,—and in the course of one little week, her domestic establishment was maliciously but truly described as consisting of 'two white Slaves and a black Companion.'

"The adopted Protege was, in reality, a strapping strapping clumsy Negress, as ugly as sin, and with no other merit than that of being of the same colour as the crowd. She was artful, sullen, glutinous, and above all, so intolerably indolent, that if she had been literally 'carved in ebony,' as old Fuller says, she could scarcely have been of less service to her protectress; and shortly after the instalment of the negress in the family, a moral disease broke out with considerable violence, and justly or not, the odium was attributed to the new comer. Its name was theft. First, there was a shilling short in some loose change—next, a missing half-crown from the mantel-piece—then there was a stir with a tea-spoon—anon, a piece of work about a thimble. Things went, nobody knew how. The Cook could, the Housemaid would, and Diana should, and ought to take an oath, declaratory of innocence, before the mayor; but as Diana did not volunteer an affidavit like the others, there was no doubt of her guilt in the kitchen. Miss Morbid, however, came to a very different conclusion. She thought that whites who could eat sugar, were

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“Cus him money! here's a fuss! What me ‘teal him for? What we do with him? What any body ‘teal him for? Why, for sure, to buy sugar!”

We must, in justice to Crowquill, not forget to notice the wrapper, which is designed by him in his best manner, and is itself full of pleasant conceits: and we rejoice to have it in our power to give from the work one of the most fanciful and beautiful sketches that ever came from the pencil of Harvey:

A MERRY THOUGHT.



OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Literary Remains and Memoirs.—Chance has collected on our table no less than four of these monumental publications; a class of works which the critic always approaches with considerate gentleness, as if he were entering the chamber of the dead. How indeed is it possible to question coldly the judgment of affection or friendship, when, in the sorrow of bereavement, it is setting forth for honour, the virtues, or the genius of a beloved one departed? We desire, therefore, on these occasions rather to intimate the several claims they advocate, than to examine their validity. The first of this class to which we wish to direct attention is a new edition of—

The Poetical Works of Thomas Pringle; with a Sketch of his Life, by Leitch Ritchie.—The sketch, like other obituary notices which we have seen from the pen of Mr. Ritchie, is executed with equal good taste and good feeling; he has done full justice to the memory of a pious, true-hearted man, in whom bodily infirmity could neither destroy the poet's spirit nor darken the poet's mind; an active man, too, and benevolent as active—witness many private good-deeds here recorded, as well as public services effected when secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society. Mr. Pringle's poetry faithfully reflected his mind—he was too sincere “to feign” even “in fantastic rhyme,” and hence there is a freshness in his African Sketches, a heartiness and feeling in his Scottish songs, which make them, when collected, a welcome and standard addition to the works of the minor poets of England. The book, too, has other claims upon the notice of the public, being brought forward for the benefit of a wife and a sister, who, it is to be feared, stand in urgent need of whatever funds may accrue from its publication.

The Rev. E. Smedley's Poems and Selected Correspondence, published, with *Memoir of his Life*, by his Widow—is no less deserving of a cordial welcome. Mr. Smedley was an amiable and accomplished man, with more scholarship and less fresh fancy than Pringle; like Pringle, too, he was visited with severe bodily trials: a total deafness, which rendered it necessary for him to resign his clerical appointments, was succeeded by a paralysis of the limbs: in fact, a gradual though protracted death; but throughout the progress of his malady Mr. Smedley was able to muster up resolution and strength for the completion and superintendence of several works; we need but allude to the ‘Sketches of Venetian History,’ contributed to the Family Library; his ‘History of the Reformed Religion in France,’ and to the *Encyclopaedia Metropolitana*, of which he was for many years sole editor. That he bore his trials not only patiently but cheerfully, the correspondence here published offers abundant proof; it is full of the affectionate thoughts and sprightly allusions which give such a charm to home-intercourse. Mr. Smedley's poems are easy and graceful, rather than energetic; the selection comprises a poem of some length on ‘La Trappe,’ some happy *vers de société*, not a few translations from the classical writers, and some excellent hymns; but the great charm of the volume lies in the *copyrights* of which are expired, and therefore the sooner copyrights expire the better for Mr. Tegg. But Mr. Tegg's argument is wrong from the very starting-point; a *temporary monopoly*, he tells us, is *offered to the author by the law, &c.* Now, just the reverse of this is the fact—the right to a *perpetuity* of the monopoly is *taken from the author by the law*, for it is only by reference to that law of laws, that law superior to all other laws, which requires a sacrifice of the interest of the individual to the interests of society, that his right to a monopoly in perpetuity can be questioned. Thus much in reference to the laws of England on this subject; but the works before us bring under consideration the state of international law. Peter Parley, as is now probably well known, is the *nom de guerre* of an American writer of the name of Goodrich, a man of uncommon tact and judgment, and not without higher claims to distinction. Mr. Goodrich, however, finding that the up-lands of the forked hill were somewhat scanty of herbage, descended into the pastures at the foot of it, and after writing and compiling many works, struck on the idea of Peter Parley's Tales, which has been pre-eminently successful. These Tales have from time to time, as they appeared in America, been republished by Mr. Tegg and others in England, and many, very many, thousand copies have been here sold. Now, can any honest reason be given why Mr. Goodrich should not be allowed to share in the profits of his brain-labour? why he should not be permitted to offer the copyright of

and the result is a conviction that our transatlantic friends are gross, rude, indecent, &c. The work, in short, runs on the old rail-road of national prejudice, and contains no pictures vivid enough to make amends for its author's presumptuous uncharitableness.

R eligion and Religious Education.—This work is intended as a supplement to ‘Hampden in the Nineteenth Century.’ It is manifestly the effusion of an amiable and cultivated mind; and those who do not agree with the author's reasoning, must acknowledge the purity of his intentions.

Outlines of Naval Routine, by Lieut. A. D. Fordyce R.N.—The want of some uniform system in minor matters is said, by Mr. Fordyce, to have been long felt in the navy; many ships are months, sometimes years, in commission before their general style of carrying on duty assumes anything like good management. In consequence, he has been induced to prepare these Outlines, which are, we observe, strongly recommended by Captain the Honourable J. F. De Roos, who is far more competent than we pretend to be to offer an opinion on their merits.

The History of the Bastile and its Principal Captives, by R. A. Davenport.—Anecdotal rather than historical; it may be read with interest by persons not already informed on the subject. It contains, of course, anecdotes of the Man in the Ma-k, and Latitude, the man of many escapes, of the fiendish Brinvilliers, and the poor distracted *convulsinaires* of Saint Medard, and minute and almost revolting details of prison life and discipline, furnished by the few among many captives who came forth to tell their tale of suffering.

Manby's Reflections on Shipwreck.—Capt. Manby's apparatus for preserving lives in shipwreck, has been so often described, that we need only say that this little pamphlet is written to recommend it.

Peter Parley.—1. *Tales about Christmas, New Year's Day, Twelfth Day, and Black Monday.*—2. *Tales about the Sun, Moon, and Stars.*—3. *Wonders of the Earth, Sea, and Sky.*—4. *Tales about Great Britain and Ireland.*—Every succeeding day proves more and more clearly that additional protection given to literary property would tend to the general good. It is a gross mistake to argue that the right which is taken from authors goes to benefit the public; it goes to the booksellers, and, like all unprotected rights, is used with a grasping and short-sighted economy. Mr. Tegg has published a pamphlet on this subject, in which he dissents from these opinions. Mr. Tegg, we are willing to admit, is a shrewd, clear-headed man on all subjects coming within the range of his experience, but in this instance he is not a disinterested witness; the ‘peculiar branch of the publishing business’ in which, according to his own report, he has acquired his special knowledge, is, if we mistake not, the reprinting works the *copyrights* of which are expired, and therefore the sooner copyrights expire the better for Mr. Tegg. But Mr. Tegg's argument is wrong from the very starting-point; a *temporary monopoly*, he tells us, is *offered to the author by the law, &c.* Now, just the reverse of this is the fact—the right to a *perpetuity* of the monopoly is *taken from the author by the law*, for it is only by reference to that law of laws, that law superior to all other laws, which requires a sacrifice of the interest of the individual to the interests of society, that his right to a monopoly in perpetuity can be questioned. Thus much in reference to the laws of England on this subject; but the works before us bring under consideration the state of international law. Peter Parley, as is now probably well known, is the *nom de guerre* of an American writer of the name of Goodrich, a man of uncommon tact and judgment, and not without higher claims to distinction. Mr. Goodrich, however, finding that the up-lands of the forked hill were somewhat scanty of herbage, descended into the pastures at the foot of it, and after writing and compiling many works, struck on the idea of Peter Parley's Tales, which has been pre-eminently successful. These Tales have from time to time, as they appeared in America, been republished by Mr. Tegg and others in England, and many, very many, thousand copies have been here sold. Now, can any honest reason be given why Mr. Goodrich should not be allowed to share in the profits of his brain-labour? why he should not be permitted to offer the copyright of

The Modern Pythagorean—contains essays and sketches by the late Mr. Macnish, well known for ‘Anatomy of Drunkenness,’ ‘Anatomy of Sleep,’ but still more extensively for many wild and strange tales contributed to the Annals and Magazines; and a memoir by his friend Mr. Moir. The work is published for the benefit of the sisters of Mr. Macnish. The last of this class to which we have now to allude is—

Rambles in the Footsteps of Don Quixote, written by the late Mr. Inglis, and the first part of which appeared in the short-lived *Englishman's Magazine*. The work is illustrated, as it deserved to be, by George Cruikshank; but unfortunately is heralded by a preface so absurd in its judgments, and so extravagant in its panegyric, that lest our last words should belie our first, we will conclude without further comment.

Notes of a Journey through Canada, the United States of America, and the West Indies, by James Logan, Advocate.—This last of American tourists would have been welcome at the present moment had he given us more information concerning the habits of life in Canada, and less dogmatism concerning morals, &c. Mr. Logan swept rapidly through America,

these works to the London booksellers, and sell it to the highest bidder? But observe, the injustice does not necessarily rest in this direct appropriation of his property; his name and fame are at the mercy of the spoiler. The success of Peter Parley's Tales was consequent on the care, skill, and ability with which they were compiled—the name, therefore, became an earnest of good qualities—and every succeeding work sold at once, without waiting till time had tested its individual merit. Here was reward to the writer and security to the public; for their interests were become identified. Suppose now that some persons resolved to trade on this fame and name of Peter Parley, and to turn them to his own profit, were to publish 'Peter Parley's Wonder of Wonders,' or some work under a like title, and that it was not merely bad, but positively immoral, what would be the result? it would sell of course, on the well-earned reputation of the name under which it appeared, but there would be an end of all further publication by Mr. Goodrich; his literary character would be ruined by the demerits of a work he had never seen. This may be thought an extreme case—and possibly it is so, because a question as to the moral character of the spurious work is introduced, to show the consequences of such a system; but this put aside, we have proof before us that such practices have been had recourse to, for the first work on our list—'Peter Parley's Tales about Christmas' is a mere English manufacture, and *Mr. Goodrich did not write, and has not seen, a single line of it.* But it will not be denied that to alter, mutilate, interpolate a genuine work is an offence only different in degree, and this is done every day. The second of those on our list is professedly "Edited by the Rev. T. Wilson," the meaning of which word in this instance we must leave the reader to determine; the third professes to be "greatly improved," and the last can hardly be considered as Mr. Goodrich's at all, for it has been nearly rewritten to humour the taste of an English public.

List of New Books.—*Anabasis of Cyrus*, book I. chaps. I. to VI, with Lexicon, by I. T. V. Hardy, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—*Ancient Egyptians, their Manners, &c.* by J. G. Wilkinson, 3 vols. Svo. 3s. cl.—*An Atlas adapted to Gautier's Geography*, folio, 15s. hf-cl.—*An Account on Warming and Ventilating*, svo. 5s. cl.—*Burgh's Tracts for the Church*, fc. 2s. 6d. bds.—*Ernest Maltravers*, new edit. 3 vols. post Svo. 21s. 6d. cl.—*Geographical and Historical Questions by the Abbé Gautier*, square, 3s. cl.—*Heber's Parish Sermons*, 3rd edit. 2 vols. post Svo. 16s. bds.—*King Henry the Eighth's Scheme of Bishoprics, &c.*, svo. 10s. cl.—*The Lord's Prayer explained*, by Mrs. Blackwell, 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl.—*Parkinson's Sermons*, 3rd edit. 2 vols. 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.—*The Prisoners of Abd-el-Kader*, translated by R. F. Porter, 12mo. 6s. bds.—*Proverbial Philosophy*, by M. F. Tupper, svo. 7s. cl.—*Reading Recreations*, 18mo. 4s. 6d. cl.—*Retrospect of Western Travel*, by H. Martineau, 3 vols. post Svo. 31s. 6d. bds.—*Royale on the Antiquity of Hindoo Medicine*, svo. 6s. 6d. bds.—*Roxton Gower, or the Days of King John*, by Thomas Miller, 3 vols. post Svo. 31s. 6d. bds.—*Shanty the Blacksmith*, by Mrs. Sherwood, 18mo. 2s. hf-cl.—*Stebbing's Home and Smollett's England*, Vol. IV, royal 18mo. 4s. cl.—*Toller's Law of Executors, &c.*, by Whitemarsh, Svo. 6s. bds.—*Trifles for Leisure Hours*, by M. A. Z. 12mo. 4s. bds.—*Utopia, or the Happy Republic*, &c., 5s. cl.—*Warner Arundell, the Adventures of a Creole*, 3 vols. post Svo. 31s. 6d. bds.—*Woodcock's Laws of the British Colonies in the West Indies*, 2nd edit. 8vo. 3s. cl.

[ADVERTISEMENT]—Now ready, price 1s., with numerous Woodcuts, No. 1. of HOOD'S OWN, or, LAUGHTER FROM YEAR TO YEAR. London: A. H. Baily & Co. 83, Cornhill.

ORIGINAL PAPERS

FREE BLACK COLONY IN GUIANA.

[The English government, long before the total abolition of slavery, established Sierra Leone as a colony for free negroes; the Americans, following the example, founded Liberia; but it is not generally known that the French have a settlement of a like character on the coast of Guiana. Some time since a notice of the latter appeared in the *Algemeine Zeitung*, of which an abridged report, including a sketch of the life of the very remarkable woman, to whom it owes its existence, is likely, we think, to interest our readers.]

Madame Javoukey was born in 1777, near Seurre, in Burgundy: her father was a respectable though not a wealthy farmer, and the family is said to have been a pattern of simple and fervent piety. She early displayed great decision of character and superiority of understanding. While yet very young, she, conjointly with one of her sisters, established an orphan asylum for girls, which she supported by her own industry and some assistance from her father.

This small beginning was the origin of the order of Saint Joseph of Cluny. As funds increased, hospitals and schools were established; and at length she resolved to dedicate herself and her order to the instruction, improvement, and emancipation of the negroes. She determined first to see what had been done by the English in Sierra Leone, for which purpose she proceeded in 1822 to the Senegal, and from thence to Cape Coast Castle. On her return to the Senegal she founded an establishment of her order, with a school and an hospital for the negroes. Many difficulties opposed the progress of the institution, but Madame Javoukey gradually gained the confidence of the Mohammedan and heathen negroes, many of whom intrusted their children to her care; she however became convinced that the influence of the Marabouts over the minds of these people was too strong to admit of any effective system of education, so long as they remained in the vicinity of their contaminating superstition; she therefore proposed to several of the negro tribes to take their children to France, there to instruct them in those arts and trades the results of which they so greatly admired. Many negotiations were carried on with several tribes, and at length twenty-two children were collected. When Madame Javoukey left the Senegal with the children, she was accompanied to the shore by the Arab chiefs, with many demonstrations of respect; they collected the sand which bore the impress of her footsteps, tied it up in corners of their mantles, and promised to keep it till her return. For many years she devoted herself to the instruction of her charge; six hours every day were allotted to agriculture and gardening, the remaining six to religion, the sciences and trades. The greater part of these children made considerable proficiency, and one of them was offered a professorship in the Gymnasium at Limoux, which, however, he declined.

As soon as the revenues of the order permitted, Madame Javoukey founded houses connected with it in the French colonies in the Antilles, Bourbon, and Guiana, the immediate object of which was to afford instruction and to provide for the sick negroes, but to serve ultimately as a step towards their emancipation. Her first intention was to introduce free European workmen, and thus to show to the slave owner that it was his interest to convert his slaves into free labourers. The French Minister of Marine afforded her an opportunity for making the attempt; the settlement of La Mana on the coast of French Guiana was given up to the order, and was to form under its direction a colony cultivated exclusively by Europeans. Settlers skilled in agriculture and trades were soon collected; these government undertook to transport to the country and to maintain for three years, and the founding houses were every year to send out fresh colonists.

Immediately, however, on the arrival of the emigrants, a series of disasters commenced. The slave owners threw every possible impediment in their way, while the officers of government sought rather to secure their own influence than to promote the success of the undertaking. The settlers, too, soon became dispirited; declared that they had been deceived, and insisted on being sent home. Madame Javoukey, notwithstanding, did not lose her courage, and used every means in her power to maintain subordination. On the refusal of the colonists to work, the sisters of Saint Cluny undertook the cultivation of the waste lands:—nuns were seen guiding the plough and steering the boats, and the colony began to assume a cultivated appearance. Being surrounded by several families who were devoted to her, Madame Javoukey persisted in her purpose, and the crops of sugar-cane, rice, and maize exceeded expectation; they were however obliged to boil the sugar in pans in the open air, for no boiling-houses had yet been erected. The herds in the savannahs also increased, and some sawing mills gave rise to a lucrative trade with Cayenne. But the fevers alarmed the few remaining white planters, and the emigrants were now supplied with means to return home. Madame Javoukey, however, would not abandon the colony, but resolved to make use of the services of the negroes, in order to prepare them for their emancipation. She purchased thirty slaves in Cayenne, for the most part criminals out of the prisons, whom she transported to La Mana. By kind treatment and careful superintendence and instruction, she

effected an entire reform among them, and constituted them into a free community. In 1833 she returned to Paris to submit her plans to government, and soon received the requisite sanction. The negroes taken by French ships of war from confiscated slave ships, had hitherto been taken to the colonies, where they were employed in public labour. There were about 600 of them in Cayenne, and these Madame Javoukey entreated government to give up to her for the purpose of forming a colony in La Mana. The order of Saint Cluny undertook to provide for all their wants, to instruct them, act as their guardian, and at the expiration of seven years to give them entire freedom and the possession of a house and a piece of land, without requiring any assistance from the government. The plan was agreed to; the negroes given up to the order, which on their arrival clothed and maintained them, furnished them with dwellings and tools, and every one with a piece of land which he was to cultivate three days in the week on his own account. With the produce of their labours they were allowed, as in the Spanish colonies, to purchase the time which they had still to serve. The remaining three working days of every week belonged to the order, which employed them in laying out new villages, cultivating waste lands, and making roads, so that it might be able to receive on the same terms the yearly importation of negroes. So long as there is a single slave in any one of the villages, the order retains the management of the police in its own hands; but as soon as a village is wholly free, it enters upon all the privileges of a free community, and is at liberty to choose its own administrators. No white persons except missionaries, are admitted, and all negroes who do not come immediately from a state of slavery are excluded; every slave owner in the colony, however, who wishes to give liberty to a negro, is permitted to send him to La Mana on the same conditions as the government. All communication with the other colonies of Guiana is suspended till a sufficiently numerous body of free negroes shall have been formed.

FERDINAND RIES.

THE death of this distinguished artist, which took place at Frankfort on the 13th, is a heavy loss to modern German music. He was valuable, too, for other gifts besides his powers of composition and performance; and, in announcing his departure, we shall cause many to regret an intelligent and cheerful companion and a kind friend. Of the earlier years of his life we know little, save what has been printed in the musical dictionaries. These inform us that he was born at Bonn in 1783 or 1785, his father being a violinist in the service of the Elector of Cologne; that he was early known for the precocity of his genius, and that his first master was Bernhard Romberg. The entrance of the French into Germany threw him when a boy on his own resources, and it was not till his energy had been tried by many struggles and reverses that he succeeded in reaching Vienna and placing himself under the tuition and friendly care of Beethoven; he is mentioned as the favourite pupil, and the first ever owned as such by the author of 'Fidelio.' Under this master, however, he only perfected himself in the practice of his art; it was from Albrechtsberger that he subsequently learned its theory. His personal history, owing to the then troubled state of the continent, continued to be made up of change of residence, success deferred, and consequent depression of mind, which was at times powerful enough to dispose him to abandon his profession. By the recommendation of a friend, however, he was induced to try his fortune once more in Russia. During his tour through the north of Europe his extraordinary powers as a pianist were acknowledged with due honour; he was judicious, too, in availing himself of many popular Danish and Swedish melodies in his concert pieces, which contributed to secure for them a favourable hearing. His northern plans, however, were disturbed by the campaign of 1812, which induced him to visit England, then the only settled European habitation. He reached London in 1813, and remained here for the next twelve years, during which he is understood to have gathered a sufficient fortune. He then retired to Germany, paying us a few subsequent visits,—one, it will be remembered, for the

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production of his oratorio 'The Triumph of Faith,' at Dublin; during which, too, he wrote a slight opera, 'The Sorceress,' for the English Opera House. To these notices it may be added that while resident among us, and an occasional visitor, he made himself as much beloved for his urbanity and cheerfulness as respected for his theoretical and practical attainments.

His works are very numerous; comprising two oratorios, the last of which, 'The Kings of Israel,' has yet to be heard in England—two operas, and a third, on an Egyptian story, in MS.—symphonies and pieces for full orchestra, besides many chamber-compositions for stringed instruments and the pianoforte. They are, indeed, too numerous; many of them being merely thrown off "for the use of schools" and those amateurs who cannot or will not study deep music. Their general characteristic is a want of selectness of taste: their author sometimes indulging in direct plagiarism—sometimes, in search of what is spirited and piquant, trenching upon the commonplace; they are also chargeable with an abruptness of manner, and a tendency towards sudden and unreasonable transition and extreme harmony. But we have always felt as if every tenth work by Ries was an exception, in right of its classical and sterling excellence; and we must instance his quintett in D minor, his pianoforte quartett in E flat, his pianoforte trio in C minor, some half-dozen of his pianoforte and violin sonatas, as many of his quartets; and, as grand concert-pieces, his concerto in C sharp minor, his 'Swedish Airs,' and his 'Rule Britannia.' We have often expressed a wish that his select works were more frequently performed; the consequence would be an admission,—however little anticipated in England,—that there is no modern German composer after Weber, who, for original invention, skilful construction, and melody wild and spontaneous, deserves to be ranked so near Beethoven as his favourite pupil—Ferdinand Ries.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

Rumours have been running through the town, during the last fortnight, of a work, which had just been seen for a moment, in a fashionable house or two, and then suddenly suppressed on account of its unparalleled libels. The objects of attack, it was said, were the first family in the kingdom; and one charge among many, nothing less than that of murder, or murders, we might say. To add to the wonder, the name of a noble lady has been mentioned, figuring in the title-page, as the avowed author of this flagitious publication. Some disbelieved the entire story; others confounded the work with its yoke-fellow, 'the Diary'; but the morbid excitement on the subject was as universal as the knowledge of the anecdote. Now we have seen the book, for such a book there is; and can assure our readers, that it is a tissue of absurd mendacity, too stupid and two improbable to leave in the most credulous, or most malignant breast, a belief that its averments are true. For the most part, it is a mere revival of fictions familiar to the public, through the 'Rising Suns,' the 'Books,' and the 'Jockey Clubs,' &c. which, during the last seventy years, have been repeatedly palmed on the credulity of the lowest intellects, for 'Secret History.' To pass off the nauseous farrago, there stands, sure enough, in the title-page, the name of 'The Right Honourable Lady Anne Hamilton, sister of the Duke of Hamilton, and of the Countess of Dunmore.' That Lady Anne Hamilton can be the author of these volumes is a moral improbability, amounting to an absurdity; whether or not, any correspondence or papers of her ladyship's have fallen into improper hands, and formed a basis for some of the statements respecting Queen Caroline's affairs, we cannot say; but, admitting the fact, these can form but a small portion of the anecdotes thus strung together, and for that small portion there is no evidence, either direct or inferential, to guarantee the authenticity or remove our suspicions that the introduction of Lady Anne's name is a matchless imposture. Under the circumstances, however, it is probable that the noble family whose character is compromised in this transaction, will clear up the mystery. But by whomsoever manufactured, the work is a catchpenny of the vulgardest description, "too bad," even, to succeed as a speculation. It

would not, indeed, merit even this transient notice in the *Athenæum*, were it a solitary offence. But so great, we regret to hear, is the prurient taste for this class of publications, among the self-styled "most moral people of Europe," that books equally immoral, though less flagrantly sinning against the eternal "decessities," are threatening to become the staple of a season. The work in question is, we admit, more impudently false, and more daringly reckless in its statements, than the "Diary," which we had so recently occasion to censure; yet are the verities of the latter scarcely less intrinsically vicious, in their cynical disclosures and breach of trust. In this respect the book is but a sort of "Diary" run mad. To what a low condition must the literature of England be soon reduced, if scandal and calumny of this nature continue, as at present, to be bought up and devoured! The appetites which can relish such trash, will reject every better sort of food; and nothing that is not highly-seasoned and morally infamous, will remunerate the publisher. We must further observe, that though an under-current of the fiercest ultra-radicalism runs through the book in question, it is not to suit the tastes of the working classes, that the forgery has been put together. The price alone removes it wholly out of their reach.

The first Philharmonic trial took place, as announced, on Wednesday last. Before the business of the evening commenced, the funeral march from the Sinfonia Eroica, was performed, as a tribute to the memory of Ries. We then heard a symphony by Kalliowoda, of which, as we shall probably not hear it again, we may say, that the minuet and trio were about the best music for a grand *ballet*, we have often listened to. The next piece tried, was a descriptive overture by M. Guyenemer, which was followed by another new overture to 'The Tempest,' the composition of Mr. Potter. The best work rehearsed was a symphony by Müller, of which, in particular, the minuet and trio seemed to us spirited and characteristic. They were executed, too, with extraordinary neatness and certainty. Mr. Weichsell has at last retired from his post as Philharmonic leader, in which he has been succeeded by Mr. T. Cooke. It is fruitless, we suppose, in us, once again to protest against the plurality system of leadership, as pernicious in its general effects.

The foreign papers, we perceive, are once again announcing the death of Zingarelli: from his advanced age, it is but too probable that they are this time correct. From Italy, too, we hear that Rossini is occupied in the re-arrangement of an opera by Pavesi. In the German papers, meanwhile, we find details of the musical jubilees held in honour of Mozart, and in assistance of the funds raised for the erection of a monument to his memory.—Coming home once more, we have to note the decease of Mrs. Bland, and our regret for the loss of a sweet English ballad-singer: the occupation, however, of such, expired some dozen years since.—A better evidence of the change which has passed over our musical taste, could hardly be offered, than in the scheme of the concert of the Eastern Institution, Commercial Road—the first of a series. This was held on Wednesday. The principal orchestral pieces were, Spohr's symphony in E flat, and the overture to 'Anacreon.' Besides this, the more popular preludes to 'Zampa,' and 'La Dame Blanche,' were very fairly performed. Mr. Forbes played a fantasia by Thalberg,—and the singers were, Miss Shirreff, Miss Fanny Wyndham, Messrs. Giubilei, E. Seguin, and Fraser. We may wind up this long list of musical *notanda*, by saying, that the orchestra at the Second Concert of The British Musicians was better than we have yet heard it. The principal feature of the evening was Mr. W. S. Bennett's performance of his own concerto in C minor.

Our daily contemporaries announce the death and funeral of Lord Farnborough. This nobleman, it will be recollect, was much in the confidence of George the Fourth, and it has been alleged, by those who prefer the expression and spirituality of the Italian school to the sensuality and literal correctness of the Flemish, that he fell into and humoured his royal master's taste towards the inferior branches of art.—We may here call attention to the sale of Lord Northwick's collection of pictures, which takes place early in the season: some of these ought to find their way into Trafalgar Square.

It gives us pleasure to notice that a bust of the late Dr. Turner has recently been presented to the University College, and placed in its museum by the pupils of the late professor.

According to a paragraph in the *Standard*, "Mr. Macready has presented Mr. Stanfield, R.A., with a silver salver of the value of 150*l.*, upon which was engraved an inscription stating that it was given as a testimony of friendship and a token of obligation for the aid the great artist had afforded to Covent Garden Theatre, by painting the beautiful Diorama nightly exhibited in the pantomime. It appears that no price was agreed upon between Macready and Stanfield for the undertaking, which occupied five weeks of most valuable time, and when Macready, after the complete success of the Diorama, sent Stanfield a draught for 300*l.* as a most inadequate compensation, the artist returned it with a note, stating that he would only accept half the money. The remainder was therefore expended on a piece of plate."

The announcements of new books now before us are more substantial than usual. Messrs. Longman promise us some scientific works of importance: one of these is 'A Dictionary of Arts, Manufactures, and Mining,' by Dr. Ure;—another, 'A Dictionary of Science, Literature, and Art,' is announced as having been several years in preparation, and to contain contributions from some of the best approved writers of the day. A third dictionary, geographical, statistical, and historical, of the various countries, places, and principal natural objects in the world, is in preparation, by Mr. McCulloch. This, by the way, offers us the opportunity of expressing our satisfaction at the recent appointment of the political economist to the place of Comptroller in the Stationery Office. A no less worthy nomination is that of Sir David Brewster as Principal of Aberdeen College. To return to new books,—Messrs. Longman further promise, for the scientific, 'A Treatise on the Elements of Light,' by Mr. J. H. Kyan—a continuation of Sir J. Hooker's 'Icones Plantarum'—a new periodical, to be called 'The Monthly Chronicle,' in which the science of Dr. Lardner, and other men of note, will be relieved by literary speculations and essays of Mr. E. L. Bulwer; and for the novel-reader, 'The Robber,' by Mr. James. Periodicals, it would seem, are flourishing: another prospectus before us promises a 'Monthly Law Magazine and Political Review.' We may add to these, Mr. Van Voorst's announcement of Mr. J. S. Bowerbank's 'History of the Fossil Fruits and Seeds of the London Clay.' Messrs. Fisher advertise 'A History of Madagascar, in connexion with the Protestant Mission, since its commencement in 1818,' edited by the Rev. W. Ellis—a work which should prove interesting; and lastly, for the benefit of the antiquarian and controversial, we may mention, that 'The Illustrator Illustrated,' by the author of the 'Curiosities of Literature,' is to appear shortly.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 25.—Francis Baily, Esq. V.P. in the chair.—Neil Arnott, M.D., the Rev. William Cureton, M.A., and Charles Lock Eastlake, Esq., R.A., were elected Fellows.

A paper was read, entitled, 'Fourth Letter on Voltaic Combinations,' addressed to Michael Faraday, Esq., F.R.S., by Frederick Daniell, Esq., F.R.S.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 22.—W. R. Hamilton, Esq. President, in the chair.—Nine new members were elected.

Read, extracts from the following papers:

1st. A Note upon the *Victoria Regia*, by Prof. Lindley.—I have great satisfaction in stating to the Royal Geographical Society that some specimens of the flowers of this extraordinary plant, which have lately been received from Mr. Schomburgk, completely confirm the statement of that traveller in all essential particulars, and, at the same time, establish the new genus *Victoria* upon the most complete evidence. The most startling circumstance named by Mr. Schomburgk was, that the flowers measured fifteen inches in diameter; one of the specimens now received measures fourteen inches in diameter, although its petals have rotted off in consequence of the bad manner in which they have been prepared.

With respect to the genus, it has been already mentioned in the Journal of the Geographical Society (vol. vii. p. 350), at my request, that although Victoria is possibly the same as the *Euryale amazonica* of Poeppig, yet it is, in my opinion, quite distinct from the latter genus. I am not aware that any one in this country, of any botanical reputation, has called this opinion in question; and therefore it may appear unnecessary to notice it further. But Professor Poeppig is so good a naturalist, that it is due to him to state upon what grounds I consider him to be wrong in the genus to which he referred the plant.

Euryale is an East Indian water plant, with very large floating leaves, sometimes as much as four feet in diameter, light purple underneath, and these reticulated with numerous very large prominent veins. It is, however, covered with sharp prickles on the under side of the leaves, the leaf-stalks, flower-stalks, and calyx. In these particulars it agrees with Victoria; but in little else. Victoria has the inner petals rigid, and curved inwards over the stamens, into which they gradually pass; in *Euryale* there is no transition of this kind. In Victoria there is a double row of hornlike sterile stamens, curving over the stigmas, and adhering firmly to their back; *Euryale* has no such structure. In Victoria there are thirty-six large, reniform, compressed, fleshy stigmas; in lieu of this very singular character, *Euryale* has only the margin of a cup, with six, seven, or eight crenatures. Victoria has twenty-six cells to the ovary; *Euryale* only from six to eight. And, finally, to say nothing of minor distinctions, the ripe fruit of Victoria lies at the bottom of a regularly truncated cup, which stands high above the water, while the flower of *Euryale* sinks into the water after flowering, and the fruit, when ripe, is invested with the decayed remains of the calyx and corolla. These facts will, I think, confirm my original statement, that notwithstanding the prickles of the leaves and stalks, the genus Victoria is more closely allied to *Nymphaea* than to *Euryale*, and will, I hope, set at rest all future ingenious speculations upon the first of these genera being untenable.

2ndly. Report of an Expedition to the Damaras, in South Africa, by Captain J. E. Alexander.

The letters already published (See *Athenæum*, Nos. 483, 527) give a brief outline of this expedition, which, it will be remembered, left Cape Town on the 10th Sept. 1836, and proceeding by Clanwilliam and the Kamiesberg, crossed the Orange river on the 25th November, and halted at the Warm Bath missionary station, on the banks of the Hoon river. At first starting from the Cape, says Captain Alexander, "the country, at this season of the year, was exceedingly beautiful; wild flowers, seen only in conservatories in England, appeared on every side; there was nothing wild or barren in the landscape, but a verdant carpet, variegated with gay colours, was spread before us; in the distance, and on the right, were the snow-covered peaks of the primitive range of Drakenstein, averaging in height 2000 feet above the sea."

"The country at the Warm Bath presents a striking contrast; here a great plain spreads around, interspersed with black conical hills, rising from 200 to 300 feet, and occasionally visited by lions, spring-bocks, ostriches, zebras, &c. The tribe of Great Namaquas, who reside here, live in fifty circular huts; both men and women are taller than those seen to the south of the Orange river; but they have the same high cheekbones, small eyes and noses, and yellow Malay complexions. Proceeding to the northward, we passed along the western foot of the Umguma mountains, entered the Damara land, and then crossed the great plains of Kei-kaap, to the pass called Kopumnaas, or Bull's Mouth, through a range of mountains about 2000 feet high; and after suffering dreadfully from both hunger and thirst, we crossed the tropic, and reached the sea at Walvisch Bay, on the west coast, in lat. 22° 50' south, on the 19th of April, 1837, seven months from our departure from Cape Town, and being the first Europeans who had ever accomplished this journey by land. After a stay of a fortnight here, and an ineffectual attempt to get to the northward, we left it on the 3rd May, and directed our course to the eastward, along the banks of the Kooisip. At this time we subsisted on a new species of fruit, called Naras, about the size of a

shaddock, covered with prickles, but containing inside pulp and seeds resembling a melon; it grows on a thorny bush, about four feet high, without leaves. May 12, we reached the Humaris, or rolling river, a northern tributary of the Kooisip, to the eastward of which extends a range of mountains called Tomás, or of the Wilderness. Here were abundance of rhinoceros, and we ate their flesh and that of the zebra; both are rank and disagreeable; locusts also were occasionally our food.

Journeying to the eastward, we crossed the off-ssets of the great mountain of Tans, or the screen, and found ourselves on an elevated table land, in the rocky recesses of which dwell many communities of Hill Damaras; more to the eastward we found plains of excellent grass, with trees. Here we saw the first brindled gnus, which the Boschman captured disguised as an ostrich; we also saw white and black rhinoceros. Continuing to the eastward, we arrived on the 24th May at the large village of Nees, composed of mat houses, and containing about 1200 persons of Namáquas and Hill Damaras, and situated in a fertile plain, on the banks of the Kei-kurúp; our wants were here abundantly supplied, and all the native dances were performed to welcome us.

"There are two nations or great tribes of Damaras—the Damaras of the plains, who are very rich in cattle, and inhabit the country to the north and east of the Swakop or Bowel river; and the Damaras of the hills, who extend from the Kooisip for a considerable distance to the southward and eastward—both tribes are negroes, black, with woolly hair, small flat noses, and thick lips; the former speak a language peculiar to themselves, of which I obtained a small vocabulary, the latter use the clicking Namáqua language.

"We tried in vain to get either to the northward or to the eastward; from Nees no guide would dare show us the routes to the north, for there the Damaras of the plain lay ready for war; while to the east, they said, there was an impassable desert, which no native even had ever ventured to cross! I was obliged therefore to turn my face to the south, and on the 31st May, accompanied by the chief and many of his people, we set out on our homeward journey; at forty miles we came to a beautiful valley, with a fine view of mountain scenery in the south; and passed through a forest of trees; the grass in the valley stood like corn, and amongst it ran numerous pheasants and guinea fowl. As this valley abounds in game, it would be an excellent spot for an advanced missionary post; the people are anxious for missionaries, the women in particular said, 'Send us teachers for us and for our children;' surely we ought speedily to respond to such an appeal!

"As we journeyed southward we saw many camelopard; they were commonly in herds of a dozen, with two vultures on an eminence overlooking the bushes on the plain; we found the flesh of the giraffe preferable to any other we had tasted, and we had eaten of every animal from a lion to a locust.

"On the 10th June we recrossed the great Fish river, and descended into the plain of the Koangui; after passing Bethany we exchanged the country of lions for that of leopards, and by a hot, unpleasant valley of scorpions, reached and crossed the Orange river at the ford of Kúna-rásp, within about thirty miles of the Atlantic.

"On the 1st August we quitted the banks of the Gariep, and again gladly crossed the Kowsie, and entered the colony; tarrying for a short time with the hospitable and excellent missionary Mr. Schmelin, we pushed on by the beautiful district of the twenty-four rivers, and reached Cape Town on the 21st September, just one year and eleven days from our departure, and feeling truly grateful for the manner in which myself and people had been mercifully preserved during a journey of nearly 4000 miles, and during which they had all contentedly and cheerfully undergone no common degree of fatigue and privation."

"Among the objects of natural history collected during this expedition, are some very rare and valuable species; we may mention the *Graphurus Capensis* of Cuvier, and sundry new species of *Chrysocloris cynictis*, and *Bathyergus* not yet described; one species of Canis, and one of Herpestes, seem to be

entirely new; and others, not to be found in our metropolitan collections.

Among the Raptorial birds is a very beautiful eagle, which appears to be new; two very small falcons, and two owls. Among the Inseessorial is a very rare Touraco, described by Dr. Smith; several species of an apparently new Agapornis, or small parrot; the Rhinopsmastus Smithii, and the Coracias, which, the natives say, alights on the horn of the rhinoceros, and which is interesting as showing the southern limit of the range of this beautiful tropical bird. Among the Rasores are some bustards and Pterocles, and the *Cursorius bisinctus* of Temminck.

Among the plants, two or three species of Pappophorium may be remarked; a very fine Escopod-like spiny shrub, and a beautiful blue flowered prickly Barleria, which we termed "our comfort in the wilderness;" but the curious Naras fruit claims the greatest attention, from its great utility as an article of food: it is difficult at present to say what it really is, though it would seem to resemble a plant called *Scheperia juncea*; some seeds of it, already sown in the gardens of the Horticultural Society, it is to be hoped will enable us to determine its character.

This narrative was illustrated by a map on a large scale, compiled by Mr. John Arrowsmith, from the routes and observations furnished by Captain Alexander, and exhibited a well-defined track over a great extent of country hitherto a blank on our maps.

Captain Alexander also gave a description of the spears, war clubs, assegais, and dresses of the natives; and laid several sketches of scenery in South Africa on the table; he also kindly allowed his Dámaran boy to be present at the meeting. This is a youth of about twelve years old, with an intelligent, good-natured countenance, short woolly hair, flat nose, thick lips, &c., and affords an irresistible proof, one would imagine, even to the most sceptical, that the Damaras are a nation of negroes.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Jan. 20.—Professor Wilson, in the chair. This meeting of the Society was made special, for the purpose of taking into consideration certain measures, proposed by a Finance Committee, having for their object the reduction of their expenses, and of amending certain articles of the Society's regulations, regarding compositions, and the collection of arrears of subscriptions.

After the Report of the Finance Committee had been read, the Director observed, that the hopes long entertained by the Society, of getting accommodation in some public building, were now entirely at an end; and that other means must be adopted for the object in view. The occupation of a less expensive house had been suggested; and inquiries would be made, in order to ascertain if this were practicable; but there were difficulties in the way of following up this suggestion at the present moment. One of the chief causes of the increased expense was, the salary which had been assigned to the office of Secretary; and it had been very liberally suggested by Captain Harkness, that the salary should be discontinued. By this arrangement, which was acceded to by the Council, the Society's affairs would receive no detriment, as that gentleman was perfectly ready to continue his valuable services without remuneration.

The alterations in the regulations of the Society, were then laid before the meeting, and unanimously agreed to: after which the ordinary business of the Society was proceeded with.

A letter from B. H. Hodgson, Esq. dated at Nepal, was read; in which that gentleman stated, that he had after ten years trouble ascertained the Gauri Gau, of the Saul Forest, at the foot of the Himalayan Mountains, to be an osculant form connecting the Bos and Bison: it was distinguished by the enormous size of the cranium, by the huge frontal crest rising above the horns, by the great development of the spinous processes, and by the number of its ribs. Mr. Hodgson proposed to call this animal Bibos, as a generic name, with the addition of the specific term, *sub-hemicalus*, from its habitat under the Himalaya Mountains. These animals are found only in the deepest recesses of the Saul Forest, where they roam in herds of ten to thirty or forty; and although harmless when unmolested, they are roused by aggression to a fury which is irresistible. Mr. Hodgson stated, that this letter was merely written

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ad interim, and that he was at present engaged in the examination of the animal. The letter concluded with the statement of the writer's opinion, that the Ursus of classic authors was no other than an animal of the order which he had just described.

Gideon Colquhoun, Esq., and John Bowman, Esq., were elected members of the Society.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.

Jan. 11.—David Pollock, Esq., in the chair. The paper read was 'On the Battle of Marathon,' by Mr. George Finlay, whose long residence in Greece, where he is a landed proprietor, has supplied him with opportunities of archaeological inquiry, with the valuable results of which the Society has on several occasions been furnished by his friend Col. Leake. Having made some remarks on the importance to freedom and civilization of that great historical event, the circumstances of which he had undertaken to investigate, Mr. Finlay gave a lucid and minute description of the celebrated plain of Marathon; directing attention especially to the well-known "heap of gathered ground," near the centre of its southern division. From every part of the dull level the eye is attracted by a mound nearly thirty feet in elevation, with a base of about 600 feet in circumference, half dug open by speculators in antiquities, and cut into deep furrows by the ruin of more than 200 years. This tumulus, called (from the time probably of its erection) the Sóros (*Σόρος*), is the monument raised over the bodies of the 192 Athenian citizens who fell in the battle. Proceeding to discuss the numbers and other advantages of the invading army, he adverted to the perfect acquaintance possessed by the Persian generals with the peculiarities of Greek warfare, and the leading features of the country, as derived in a great degree from Hippias, the banished tyrant of Athens, who accompanied them, and had considerable authority in the direction of the expedition. For the numbers of the powerful and victorious host of Persia, he was guided by the facts mentioned by Herodotus, and the profound examination of this subject by Colonel Leake, published in the first volume of the Society's Transactions. Stripped of the exaggerations of other writers, Mr. Finlay considered the following to be a fair estimate of the numbers of the entire armament under Datis and Artaphernes, when it left the coasts of Asia :—

Regular Infantry	24,000
Regular Cavalry	1,000
Light Infantry	30,000
Attendants on the Cavalry	1,000
Rowers and sailors of 600 triremes	60,000
Crews of 100 Horse Transports	5,000
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	121,000

But some diminution must have taken place before the expedition reached Marathon. The Persian generals could hardly have reviewed, on the plain more than 20,000 infantry; and although the care taken of the cavalry may have preserved this force at near its original complement, a deduction of at least one-sixth must be made for the rest of the armament. The numbers actually present at the battle could not have been more than 46,000 men, and of these only 20,000 were regular infantry, the only force which seems to have been engaged. The choice of Marathon by the Persian generals appears to have been determined by the advantages afforded there for the shelter of the fleet, and the immediate employment of the cavalry, as well as by the facilities it offered for an attack on others. [The conclusion of Mr. Finlay's paper was deferred to the next meeting.]

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Jan. 11.—Mr. Hallam, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. Rosser communicated a description of some monumental brasses of the times of Edward IV. and James I., in the county of Gloucester, and exhibited some copies made by rubbing. Mr. Delagarde, of Exeter, contributed a paper containing an historical account of the canal near that city, commenced A.D. 1563, and being the first ever made with locks and sluices, in England. The inventor of that mode of navigation was, it appears, one John Trew, of Glamorgan. Mr. C. R. Smith exhibited a spear-head of bronze, found in the bed of the Thames near Kew bridge; a relic of ancient British or Roman manufacture.

Jan. 18.—Mr. Amyot, Treasurer, in the chair.—The answer communicated by Lord John Russell to the addresses of condolence and congratulation, presented by the Society to Her Majesty, and the answer to the address of condolence to Her Majesty Queen Adelaide, were read by the Secretary. Sir Henry Ellis, Secretary, read two original letters, one describing some interesting circumstances respecting the Fire of London, and the other a description of the reception of the Palsgrave in London during the reign of James I.

Jan. 25.—Mr. Hallam, V.P., in the chair.—A letter was read from the Rev. John Bathurst, Dean to Sir Henry Ellis, containing some remarks on the singular utensils of gold, called double cups, occasionally discovered in Ireland, and supposed by some writers to have been used for sacrificial purposes. Sir William Betham conceives them to have been a variety of the ring money of the Celtic population of Ireland; but the reverend writer quoted a passage from Herodotus in support of an opinion that they were drinking cups, and such as were anciently used amongst the Scythians. Sir Henry Ellis, in a letter to the Earl of Aberdeen, communicated several extracts from the additional MSS. presented by Miss Banks to the British Museum, and illustrative of the history of the Order of the Garter. An anecdote related by the late Duke of Northumberland respecting the investiture of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, deserves mention. The officers in charge of the insignia reached the Prince on the eve of an engagement with the enemy, and his Highness determined to be invested at the head of his troops previous to the battle. The French commander—the Marshal de Broglie—hearing of his adversary's intention, sent flag of truce, with the offer of a temporary suspension of arms, and a request to assist at the ceremony. The request was complied with. The two armies were drawn up in peaceful array. The Prince was invested with the robes of the Order, a *feu de joie* was fired by both parties, and a grand entertainment was given by his Highness to friend and foe, upon the field which was, on the following day, to be that of battle. Sir Henry Ellis, in conclusion, expressed his conviction, upon some particular authority, that the original statutes of the Order are existing in the archives at Vienna, and that a passage in them proves the foundation of the Order to have taken place at the siege of St. Jean d'Acre, when every knight was ordered to wear a strap of white leather below the knee.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 9.—Thomas Bell, Esq. F.R.S., in the chair.—Mr. Gould exhibited a large collection of Australian birds from different metropolitan collections, and also laid on the table descriptions and characters of the whole for publication in the Society's Transactions. He also described forty species of birds from Mr. Darwin's collection, about one-third of which were new to naturalists. Mr. Gray described a species of Paramelus, which he considered the only type of that genus in Van Diemen's Land, and named *P. facialis*. This is the only specimen in that country of the well-known insectivorous animals, the bandy-coots, so destructive to every species of bulbous root, and therefore so mischievous in the gardens of the settlers. A communication was read from Captain Harris, descriptive of a new antelope found by him in South Africa, and which was forwarded for exhibition by the Royal Geographical Society. The body was about the size of a horse, the back of a black colour, and the belly white, the horns beautifully curved, those of the female being shorter and slighter, but similarly formed to the males. It inhabits the great mountain range in the county of Mataveld, and is gregarious in small families; it belongs to the sub-genus *Aigererus*, and was named by Captain Harris *A. niger*.

Jan. 23.—Richard Owen, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair.—Mr. Ogilby characterized several new but unimportant species of mammalia contained in the collection made by Captain Alexander in South Africa, and Mr. Gould described several new and interesting birds included in the same. Amongst the raptorial were an eagle with a white breast and red tail; two small falcons, scarcely exceeding in size the English hedge-sparrow; and a very small owl, of scarcely larger size. Amongst the incisorials

was a jay of very gaudy plumage, which perches upon the horns of the Rhinoceros, supposed for the purpose of obtaining insects; the hunters of the rhinoceros anxiously watch this bird, as when they see it fly up from the horn they know that the animal is alarmed. Mr. Ogilby described a new species of Galago from Madagascar, a living specimen being exhibited in the room by Mr. Garnett. The peculiarity in form consisted in the fore or index finger being of the same size, and partially opposite to the other fingers, which is not known in any other of the Lemuride. Mr. Owen also read some observations on the anatomy of the giraffe, from dissections made of the animals which died at the Regent's Park and Surrey Zoological Gardens.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

Jan. 16.—Edward Forster, Esq., in the chair.—A letter was read, from Edward Newman, Esq. accompanying a very extensive collection, containing upwards of 300 species of Lepidoptera, found over a wide range of America, extending from Georgia and Carolina, even to Canada. A short communication was read, from Mr. Babington, 'On the structure of the *Cuscus Europea*'.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON.	British Architects	Eight, P.M.
TUES.	Institute of Civil Engineers	Eight.
WED.	{ Geological Society	p. Eight.
	Society of Arts	p. Seven.
THUR.	{ Royal Society	p. Eight.
FRI.	{ Zoological Society, (<i>Gen. Buss.</i>)	p. Eight.
	Botanical Society	p. Eight.
	Royal Institution	p. Eight.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

DRURY LANE.
This Evening, Two Acts of *LA SONNAMBULA*; with THE DAUGHTER OF THE DANUBE; and the PANTOMIME, ON MONDAY, HAMLET, (*Hamlet*, Mr. Charles Kean); and the PANTOMIME, TUESDAY, A Grand Selection of SACRED and MISCELLANEOUS MUSIC; Wednesday, HAMLET; and the PANTOMIME.

COVENT GARDEN.
This Evening, THE WONDER; and the PANTOMIME, Monday, MACBETH; and the PAN TOMIME, Tuesday, There will be no Performance, Wednesday, KING LEAR; and the PANTOMIME, Thursday, AMILIE; and the PANTOMIME.

LYCEUM.—OPERA BUFFA.—The old 'Figaro,' was produced this day week, with a success due to the imperishable beauty of its music, the faithful and delicate performance of the orchestra, and the clever acting and singing of Signors Lablache and Bellini. Of the three ladies, Madame Eckerlin, Mademoiselle Scherer, and Miss Harriet Cawse (who played *Cherubino*), the last was the most welcome to us, for she sung always in tune. Her Italian, however, was but indifferent.

MISCELLANEA.

Confounded Foreigners.—(To the Editor of the *Athenæum*.) Dear Sir,—As Mr. Reynolds seems to consider that my report has done him injustice, I beg to state upon what that report was grounded. I bore willing testimony to the cleverness of Mr. Reynolds's dialogue, but I think with the critic of the *Times*, that the chief merit of the piece was the novelty of the idea,—and that idea, as Mr. Reynolds admits, was Mr. George Dance's. A good plot, in dramatic writing, is more than half the battle: and, in this case, not merely "an idea of the subject," but a whole plot, was, by agreement, furnished by Mr. Dance. That the conduct of the plot was, at the suggestion or request of Mr. Power, materially altered, there is no doubt; but I still say, that however Mr. Reynolds may have turned or twisted it,—however he may have put a new handle to the blade, or a new blade to the handle, he cannot, with either truth or justice, be styled sole author of a piece, when the main idea—that on which the whole thing turns—was supplied to him by another. M. Scribe has often altered plots, and re-written pieces which have been carried to him, but the name of his collaborateur is always published with his own.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your faithful Reporter.

Botany.—M. Decaisne has been recently devoting himself to the study of the wood of Menispermæ, and Aristolochiæ, which have been placed near the Menispermæ, in consequence of the external resemblance of the wood. His researches have led to some important modifications of the law concerning the concentric zones of Dicotyledons. He finds that the wood of the Menispermæ differs from that of other Dicotyledons, by the absence of annual concentric layers. The ligneous bundles remain in a simple form, and are not divided lengthwise, but are yearly elongated by the formation of a new layer, without

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